Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 221 | THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

15 DAYS
left before the start of the new fiscal year

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American Sarah Shourd is freed by Iran after a $500,000 bail deal.

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AG: Without new law, governor will define 'essential services'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Without a new law defining "essential services," it will be up to the governor to make that interpretation, giving him the latitude to decide which agency, department, or office will be exempt from a government shutdown should the Legislature fail to pass a budget by Oct. 1, according to a legal opinion of the attorney general.

In a seven-page opinion dated Sept. 7, 2010, Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham outlined the requirements necessary to prevent a government shutdown and responds to the question of what constitutes essential services if a government shutdown does occur.

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Islands brace for military buildup's impact on reefs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Members of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force huddle for a photo call after presenting Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, second from right, with a plaque of recognition for his contributions to the task force's efforts, during their meeting at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday. From left, American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono, CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, task force co-chair Eileen Sobeck of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Camacho, and task force co-chair Andy Winer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The task force's business meeting wraps up today.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Island nations and partner U.S. agencies have made some progress in protecting their coral reefs in recent years but they are faced with yet another challenge: how to minimize or prevent a massive military buildup from impacting the marine ecosystems not only of Guam, but also that of the CNMI, Palau, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, and other islands.

This was among the key issues in yesterday's opening of the two-day 2010 U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force is one of the foremost policy groups guiding national and international coral reef conservation.

Task Force co-chairs Eileen Sobeck

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Budget panel opts for $86K allowance for lawmakers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The conference committee on the fiscal year 2011 budget bill opts for the Senate's proposal to cap each lawmaker's annual discretionary funding at $86,000 instead of the House's suggestion to raise it to $130,000.

"We agreed to follow the Senate proposal on the discretionary allowance for each of the lawmakers. But we haven't gone to the other issues," said Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), one of the six members of the conference committee.

A deadlock between the House and

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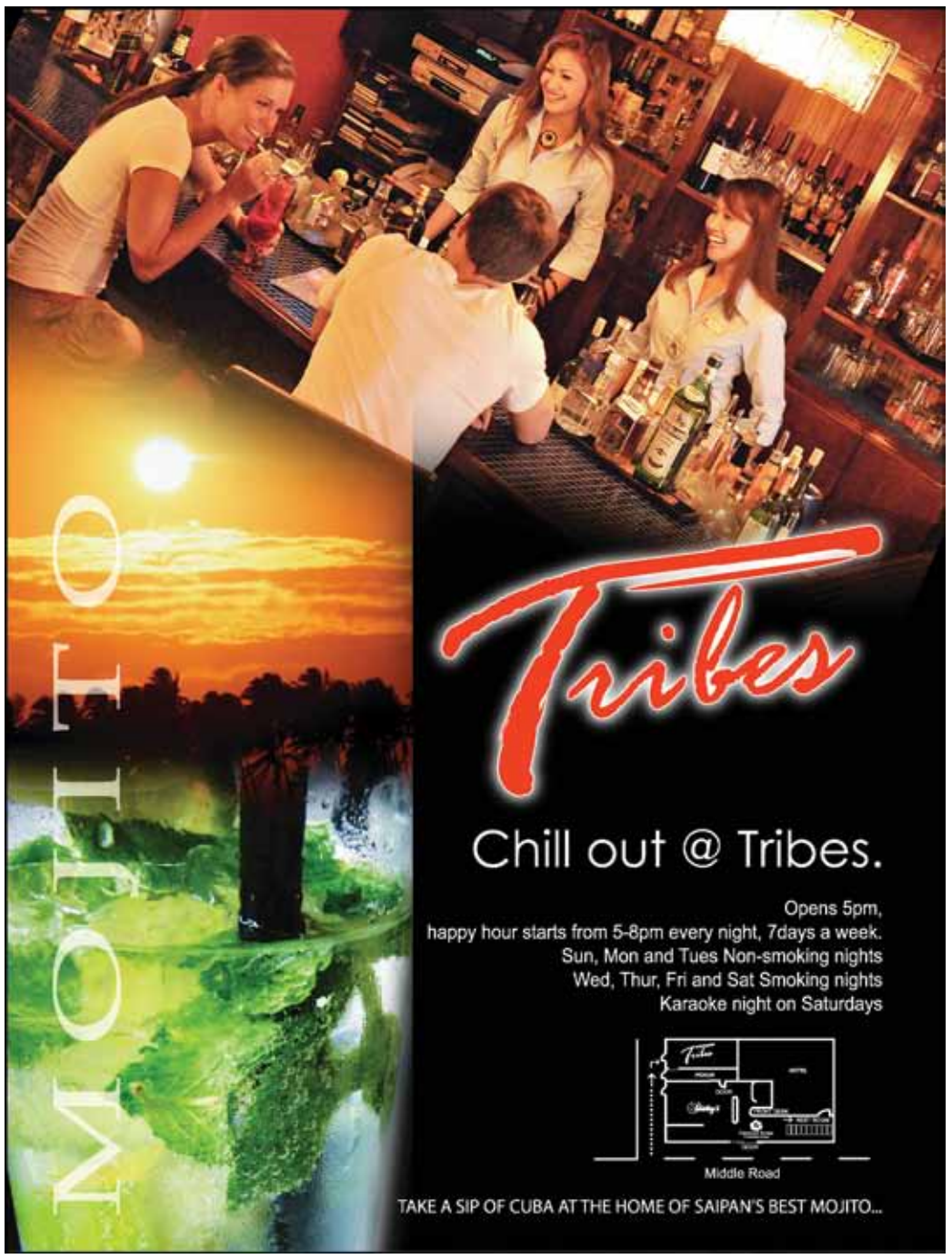
Hofschneider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Local

Japan reaffirms commitment to the Guam military buildup

» Close to $500B to be spent to relocate US troops

The Japanese government has agreed to spend close to half a billion dollars for the relocation of 8,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

A bulk of the $497.8 million Japan will pay toward the military buildup in Guam will go in the design and the building of on-base infrastructure in the Finegayan area, while the rest will be spent in the construction of a fire station, a medical clinic, and an administrative facility.

In an exchange of notes between U.S. Ambassador John V. Roos and Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada in Tokyo Tuesday, the Japanese government honored the Feb. 17, 2009 agreement signed between Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and then Japanese Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone.

The agreement calls for Japan to provide $497.8 million to the U.S. in fiscal year 2010 to be used for projects to develop facilities and infrastructure on Guam for the relocation of the estimated 8,000 U.S. Marines and their dependents from Okinawa.

The exchange of notes between Roos and Okada is in accordance with the May 1, 2006, SCC document, "United States-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation," which both governments reaffirmed in the May 28, 2010, SCC Joint Statement.

The projects to be funded by Japan during FY2010 for the relocation of U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam include the following:

- $309 million on-base infrastructure project in Finegayan area (Phase 2)
- $25.1 million to construct a fire station in Finegayan area
- $24.8 million to construct a port operation unit headquarters building in Apra
- $96 million to construction a medical clinic in Apra
- $42.9 million for a design project (base administrative building, Marine Logistic Group headquarters building, police station, physical training complex, enlisted dining facility and bachelor enlisted quarters in Finegayan area) ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TO RESOLVE DEQ ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

DPW to work with CIP on funding

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Works will work with the Capital Improvement Projects Office to seek funding to address the violations cited in the administrative order issued by the Division of Environmental Quality for the Marpi landfill.

DEQ issued three separate administrative orders to the Department of Public Works and the mayor's offices of Tinian and Rota for failure to comply with landfill operating requirements.

The administrative orders were issued after DEQ inspected the Tinian municipal dump, Rota municipal dump, and the Marpi Solid Waste Facility on Saipan to check for compliance with the Commonwealth Solid Waste Management Act and the CNMI Solid Waste Management Regulations.

"CIP is assisting us in finding some funds to do whatever repair we have to do, purchase whatever equipment that we need so we can meet compliance," Secretary Martin C. Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

According to Sablan, the problem on the leachate pumping system may have been a result of a problem with their generator system or its power lines to the control panel.

DEQ stated in its administrative order that DPW failed "to have the leachate pumping system fully operational."

"We won't have any problem with our pump system if we have a continuous, steady power coming in," said Sablan.

According to him, one of their options is to have a power line for the landfill. The landfill's only source of power right now is a generator.

"Having constant power to our pump system will minimize damage or problem. If the power fluctuates, it really damages the pump system," he said.

Since the pumping system is not working, Sablan said they are currently using a portable pump from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to pump the water out of the landfill cell and into a holding area.

Even when the landfill gets its own power line, Sablan said they will continue to maintain the generator so they can have a backup in the event of a power outage.

Sablan said he informed DEQ director Frank Rabauliman during their Monday meeting that they would need funding to comply with the administrative order.

"I think CIP is doing a great job in assisting us in trying to resolve a lot of those issues identified by DEQ inspectors. Everything we do, we need some money," he added.

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CRIME OF THE WEEK

Chalan Piao burglary and theft

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred in the village of Chalan Piao.

On Sept. 6, 2010, a residence in Chalan Piao was burglarized. Stolen from the home was a black 32" HCT flat screen TV, several pairs of Nike shoes (size 10), four Quicksilver t-shirts, and a 30-pack case of Bud light beer. The items stolen are valued at over $1,400.

The crime occurred during the late night and early morning hours. The point of entry was through a window in the home with the glass louvers removed. The suspect(s) also attempted to remove a car stereo from a vehicle parked outside the home, but were unsuccessful.

The Department of Public Safety and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or go to their website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000.00 for any information leading to an arrest. ***(PR)***

Fund projects lesser total drawdown, eyes $10M savings

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund projects to withdraw a lesser amount from its investments this fiscal year, resulting in a savings of about $10 million.

As fiscal year 2010 draws to a close this month, only $43 million to $44 million is expected to be drawn down from the Fund's investments to pay for pension and other obligations to members. This amount is significantly less than the $53.4 million that was earlier approved for withdrawals in 2010.

Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar cited the government's remittance of taxes and the increased employer contribution as key factors in the sizeable decrease of total drawdowns.

Igisomar said the Fund's investment portfolio this month is valued at over $300 million. This does not include assets that were recently liquidated for the agency's immediate obligations, he said.

Igisomar said the Fund has one final drawdown to make before end of this month; an estimated $2 million to $3 million will be withdrawn.

Fund officials earlier disclosed that the Fund draws down an average of $3.3 million a month.

Igisomar described the Fund's performance this fiscal year as a good one despite the shaky market.

"Overall, we had a good year considering the market is fluctuating. It was a great year for the Fund because everybody worked together, including the negotiating team from the Executive Branch," said Igisomar.

Manibusan unseals Govendo documents

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo had filed documents under seal in his disciplinary proceedings, but CNMI Supreme Court justice pro tem Edward Manibusan unsealed them as Govendo had no prior permission to do so.

According to CNMI Supreme Court records, Govendo filed on Aug. 26 with the high court's clerk of court a motion to have Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan disqualified from his disciplinary proceeding.

The motion to disqualify and Govendo's affidavit in support of that motion were filed with the words "Submitted Under Seal."

The following day, Govendo submitted with the clerk of court a motion for reconsideration concerning the high court's Aug. 25, 2010, order that found him in violation of canons and rules for judicial conduct. He filed the motion with the same words "Submitted Under Seal."

On Friday, Sept. 10, Manibusan unsealed the documents and ordered them be made part of the public record in the disciplinary proceeding.

Manibusan said that Govendo had not asked the Supreme Court for permission to submit the documents under seal prior to filing them.

"As there is no mechanism in either our Supreme Court Rules or the Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure to file sealed documents in a case which has been made public, and considering that Judge Govendo did not seek leave of the court to make a filing under seal, we hereby decline Judge Govendo's filing of the documents under seal," Manibusan said.

In a footnote to his motion to disqualify, Govendo explained that the motion is filed under seal since it involves a disciplinary matter concerning Roman S. Demapan, a brother of the chief justice.

In his affidavit, Govendo disclosed that he had asked Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja in February 2008 to investigate Roman Demapan for his unauthorized practice of law relating to the Angel Malite estate.

Chief Justice Demapan, Manibusan, and Associate Justice Alexandro Castro had found Govendo's use of "adios muchacho" and two other statements in court to be racially derogatory and a violation of canons and rules for judicial conduct.

Sanctions against Govendo will be determined in a hearing on Oct.15, 2010.

In his motions for reconsideration and to disqualify, Govendo has accused Chief Justice Demapan of being biased and prejudiced against him. Demapan countered that Govendo is raising patently false allegations against him and his family.

The chief justice, however, recused himself from the case, although he expressed firm belief that his disqualification is not warranted.

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ERRATUM

In yesterday's column "Immigration Matters," one sentence was incorrectly edited. It stated, "In our experience, USCIS is primarily concerned with proving the validity of the relationship (whether marriage or other family relationship) on which the application is based, ***than*** on issues such as whether the applicant is likely to become a "public charge" (basically, go on welfare) and the applicant's moral background." This is incorrect. It should have been: "In our experience, USCIS is primarily concerned with proving the validity of the relationship (whether marriage or other family relationship) on which the application is based, ***then*** on issues such as whether the applicant is likely to become a "public charge" (basically, go on welfare) and the applicant's moral background." Our apologies.

MPLT files foreclosure suit vs cop, ex-wife

The Marianas Public Land Trust has filed a foreclosure lawsuit to collect over $89,000 in alleged unpaid loan, interest, and other fees from a police officer and his former wife.

MPLT sued police officer Jesus Cepeda and Yufeng Cepeda for breach of contract, conversion, and unjust enrichment.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to contact the defendants yesterday.

MPLT, through counsel Robert T. Torres, asked the Superior Court to order the defendants pay the principal amount of $87,768.68, $1,760.25 in interest, and $407.45 in other fees.

The agency wants the court to order the sale of the real property used as security for the loan and for the proceeds of the sale to be applied to the balance.

MPLT is also demanding attorney's fees and court costs.

According to the complaint, the Cepedas obtained from MPLT a loan of $121,700 on Aug. 11, 1998. They were given a notice of default on June 22, 2010.

Torres said the total past due owed by the Cepedas on the principal amount, plus late fees and interest, was $9,180.88.

"Not having tendered the total past due amount, the defendants remain in default on the note," Torres said.

In June 2008, the Office of the Attorney General charged Yufeng Cepeda, Police Sgt. Hillary Tagabuel, and Serafin Amog Esperancilla for their alleged involvement in a car insurance scam. Yufeng Cepeda owns Y.J.C. Automobile Repair Shop. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

WITHOUT

From Page 1

The House and Senate remains deadlocked on the $132 million budget bill for fiscal year 2011 and a conference committee has been formed to hash out their differing proposals.

Buckingham said an appropriations bill must be a law to be considered "passed."

The test is whether an appropriations act is in effect by Oct. 1, 2010, the start of fiscal year 2011.

If this is not the case, then the conditions of Article III, Section 9(a) of the CNMI Constitution take effect.

These conditions require all but essential services to cease, and legislators' salaries to be suspended.

"The Constitutional provision is new and no definition of 'essential services' relative to its implementation presently exists. If a new statute is passed to define the term 'essential services', such statute shall govern. In the absence of a statute, the governor shall be responsible to define and implement appropriate provisions related to 'essential services,'" Buckingham said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in an interview, echoed the attorney general's opinion should there be no budget passed in time for the new fiscal year.

"Should there be no balanced budget passed by Oct. 1, the government will shut down. Meaning the Legislature has to come up with a definition of what essential services are, and if they fail to do that by Oct. 1, then I have to step in and provide that definition," he said.

Fitial added that he is "prepared to do whatever the Constitution requires me to do."

The duty to clarify the term "essential services" will fall to the governor under his "emergency powers."

In the November 2009 general elections, CNMI voters passed House Legislative Initiative 16-11, amending the CNMI Constitution to require a balanced budget and imposing penalties to ensure a budget is passed by Oct. 1.

These penalties include the shutdown of the government, except for essential services, and the suspension of lawmakers' salaries.

BUDGET

From Page 1

Senate on the $132 million spending package resulted in the formation of a conference committee chaired by Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), who is also chair of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) and Hofschneider separately said the committee will be inviting Finance Secretary Robert Schrack and other administration officials in today's continuation of the meeting.

They said they would like Finance to help provide financial data showing the impact of an eight-hour work cut or a 16-hour work cut every pay period.

The Senate wants 72 work hours per pay period, while the House and the Fitial administration want 64 hours per pay period to address the severe government cash crisis.

Hofschneider said he is confident that the Senate and House will be able to settle differences in the budget bill.

"We don't want a government shutdown," he added.

Hofschneider also said that they may also call in other agencies such as Northern Marianas College and the Public School System for their funding needs.

Taimanao said the committee spent the first day going over the differences in their budget versions, including the leadership accounts for the Legislature, work hour cuts, and funding level for many agencies and programs.

Failure to pass a budget before the start of fiscal year 2011 on Oct. 1 will result in a government shutdown, as called for by last year's constitutional amendment.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in a separate interview, called on the Legislature to pass a "balanced budget."

He reiterated that inherent in his $132 million budget proposal is a 16-hour cut and unpaid holidays, among other things.

"The bottom line is a balanced budget. Eight or 16 hours, these are good, but we need to provide a balanced budget," he said.

Fitial said his administration has already a contingency plan in place, which is to cut work hours by 16 every pay period starting in fiscal year 2011 as part of a reduction-in-force program.

ISLANDS

From Page 1

of the Department of the Interior and Andrew Winer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration joined representatives of federal agencies and governors of U.S. territories and affiliate members at the meeting, which showcased coral reef conservation work, watershed restoration projects, and climate change adaptation strategies, among other things.

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho said the military buildup "is the largest threat to coral reefs on this island."

The military buildup involves the relocation of some 8,600 U.S. Marines and their 9,000 dependents from Okinawa, Japan, to Guam.

It also involves the construction of facilities and infrastructure to support training and operations on Guam and Tinian for the relocated Marines.

"I stress that our ability to manage our resources and our infrastructure during the military buildup and beyond will affect our island and our families for generations to come. The efforts of local natural resource managers will be wasted, if the military buildup is not handled in a manner that respects the people of Guahan [Guam] and the natural resources we rely on—for sustenance, for economic viability, for our culture, and for our way of life," Camacho said.

One of three major projects related to the military buildup in Guam is a deep-draft wharf for transiting aircraft carriers.

The U.S. Navy earlier chose the Polaris Point in Guam's Apra Harbor as its preferred site for a carrier berth.

This would require some extensive dredging of sand and coral to accommodate the 1,325-foot wharf, designed for the larger Nimitz-class carriers, a "turning basin" in the harbor, and a widened ship channel.

Mitigation strategies

Camacho, in his remarks, asked the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force to help Guam come up with the best possible mitigation strategies for its coral reefs during this time of immense change and growth in the island.

"The members have the ability to direct resources to this important and urgent task, and techniques and strategies developed for Guahan could have future uses in other locations facing major development as well," he said.

Capt. Peter S. Lynch, commanding officer of the U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command, said yesterday that the Record of Decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement related to the buildup will not reflect a final decision on the location for a carrier berth because there's no consensus yet about the location.

Lynch, one of the presenters at the task force meeting, said the Department of Defense will defer a decision until after getting additional resource data.

He said DOD has identified funding to conduct additional studies that will take place in fiscal year 2011. Lynch said a decision will be based on data and studies that everybody agree on.

But Lynch pointed out that coral reefs are impacted by a lot of things, including runoff from a construction site or wastewater treatment that's not properly treated and could create algae plumes.

"There are the things we need to do regardless of whether we put the carrier here or there," he added.

The Record of Decision on the Guam and CNMI Final EIS, which Lynch said could only be about 160 pages, will be released on Sept. 20, instead of the earlier schedule of Sept. 10.

The Navy said the delay is necessary to ensure that all comments received on the Final EIS are fully considered in the Record of Decision. In addition, the consultation processes under the National Historic Preservation Act and Endangered Species Act are still ongoing.

Economic benefits

Just like Guam, other islands look to economic benefits of increased military presence in the region but are at the same time bracing for its impact on the environment, including their coral reefs, which help sustain their economy and way of life.

Palau House of Delegates Speaker Noah Idechong said Palau expects to have increased number of soon-to-be Guam-based military personnel and their dependents visiting the island nation for diving and snorkeling, but he said "the downside is the impact on coral reefs."

"It's a challenge for us," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview during a break at the meeting.

Idechong said Palau has been investing in educational campaign on protecting coral reefs.

Palau also started collecting in November 2009 a so-called "green fee" from visitors, to be used for preserving protected areas.

The CNMI is also looking forward to increased military training on Tinian, as well as increased visits from military personnel and dependents for rest and recreation.

Climate change

American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono said preparing for and mitigating climate change is the greatest global challenge facing the world today.

He said in American Samoa alone, the challenge is to protect resilient corals that are most likely to survive in the face of climate change.

Tulafono has also established a Climate Change Executive Order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and a Climate Change Local Action Strategy that integrated the climate change goals of the national Coral Reef Conservation Program with the local level.

'We're denied FEMA aid'

A tsunami hit the Samoan archipelago in September last year, killing people, destroying properties, displacing residents, and impacted the reefs.

"What some of you may not know is that our coral reefs suffered a second blow due to inadequate relief. Following the tsunami, large amounts of debris littered our reefs. Removal of the larger debris items is beyond the capacity of the American Samoan government, both in the expertise and the limited capacity of our landfills," Tulafono said.

He said American Samoa repeatedly asked FEMA to directly assist NOAA by obtaining supplemental funding to remove the debris by activating Emergency Support Functions of the National Response Framework.

"However, we have been consistently denied on multiple accounts due to the loose interpretation of the ESFs by FEMA. Ladies and gentlemen, let me be frank. While it may sound like that this is about our last disaster and our issues with FEMA, they are not. This is not just about American Samoa. Anyone of our jurisdiction can experience a disaster such as our tsunami of 2009, and suffer the same consequences as us," he said.

Tulafono asked the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force two things.

The first is the need to provide a formal U.S. position that coral reef health is indeed a public health issue for the people of American Samoa and the other insular jurisdictions.

"This would enable the Stafford Act to provide FEMA funding for coral reef restoration activities to address damage caused by natural disasters," he said.

The second is the FEMA response requirement that differs for jurisdictions outside of the continental U.S., requiring a natural disaster declaration while there is an automatic response initiation for natural disasters occurring within the continental U.S.

"In conclusion, I am confident about the future of the work of this task force. And together, we can continue to enhance conservation strategies and limit threats to coral reef ecosystems, as already demonstrated by the USCRTF and Coral Reef Conservation Program," he added.

Micronesian Challenge

CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said while the region has made great strides in the past decade, there continues to be considerable challenges ahead, particularly in coral reef protection efforts and the impact of climate change.

"Today, we will place considerable attention on the Micronesia Challenge—a commitment by the governments of the CNMI, Guam, FSM, RMI and Palau—to address the very issues of coral reefs and climate change," he said.

The Micronesia Challenge calls for the protection of 30-percent of the islands' marine resources and 20-percent of terrestrial resources by the year 2020.

"The actions we take now to protect, restore and sustain our coral reef ecosystems will undoubtedly play a significant role in shaping the future of our Micronesian region, both economically and culturally. While it is clearly impossible for us to stop the forces of nature, we must remain firm in our commitment to be adequately prepared for what is to come long before it arrives. At the end of the day, it is people who make the difference," he added.

Vangie Lujan, chair of the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee, said island territories now have more access to federal agency assistance when it comes to coral reef protection.

Owners of defunct Club Jama settle dancers' lawsuit

The owners of the defunct Club Jama have settled the lawsuit filed by the establishment's former 10 dancers who claimed they were not given overtime compensation.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Judge Philip M. Pro stated in his order issued Tuesday that the counsels in the case have told him that they have already reached a settlement.

He cancelled the trial scheduled for Sept. 20, 2010, and ordered both parties to file for the dismissal of the case on or before Nov. 1, 2010.

The terms of the settlement were not disclosed. As of yesterday, no documents containing the settlement terms were filed in court.

The complainants in the lawsuit are Aileen C. Alanan, Gerlie Albuna, April G. Alfonso, Jenny Solomon, Aiza Y. Garcia, Doricel Lemorinas, Mary Grace Manguiob, Raquel A. Ramos, Reah Carascal Rodriguez, and Merarcy P. Templado.

The women, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, sued Chanpac Inc., owner of the former Club Jama, and Chanpac officers Ernest J. Strange and his wife, Thelma Strange, for breach of contract.

The Stranges reportedly now reside in Tennessee.

The complaint stated, among other things, that the defendants forced the dancers to dance for events and functions outside and in addition to their normal hours of work at the club.

According to court documents filed by Chanpac Inc., except for Ramos, all plaintiffs were exotic dancers whose dancing only occurred during the hours Club Jama was open for business.

In December 2007, police and Labor investigators raided the barracks of Club Jama in Chalan Piao and rescued six dancers who were allegedly being falsely imprisoned.

But seven then employees of the club, including a dancer, later denied the allegations of their co-workers.

The Strange couple were never charged in court. After that raid, the club closed up. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CUC working on the first 17 items in Stipulated Order II

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said that only half of the 33 requirements in Stipulated Order II are progressing, while the rest are awaiting funding.

"We are working on the first 17 items. The ones starting with 18 are available for financing," CUC assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae told *Saipan Tribune*.

Stipulated Order II calls for the utility to address its the lack of infrastructure for safe fuel storage, handling and transfer facilities of the power generation facilities, and power distribution, including possible environmental site cleanup.

Items that are in progress in Stipulated Order II include the following:

- $531,000 for oil clean up in Tank 104,
- $127,000 for Tank 105 and 106
- 145,000 for oil pipeline design
- $106,000 for improvements at the secondary containment
- $45,800 for oil transfers
- $10,000 for laboratory to test oil samples
- $500,000 for Rota tank repairs
- $530,000 clean up of Tank 101, 102, 107, 107B, and 108
- $500,000 for removal and cleaning of used oil in Rota tanks
- $520,000 for environmental sampling workplan for power plants 1 and 2
- $149,000 for sampling workplan for power plan 3
- $500,000 for spill response equipment
- $1.7 million for pipeline construction
- $160,000 for tanks inspection
- $230,000 for phase 2 of the secondary containment.

Malae said funding for these deliverables was made possible by a $4 million grant.

He disclosed that the Fitial administration endorsed CUC's $3.8 million request to the Department of the Interior and Capital Improvement Project to deliver the 18 other requirements under Stipulated Order II.

The stipulated orders—I and II—represent the agreement between the CNMI and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, setting forth the requirements and deadlines that CUC must meet so it could comply with the mandates of the Clean Air Act and Safe Drinking Water Act.

Stipulated Order I requires CUC to create a new management and financial structure governing all aspects of CUC's operations.

The federal government has given the CNMI until November 2011 to address all the concerns raised in the two stipulated orders.

Villagomez is Fund's new administrator

The NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees has named deputy administrator Richard Villagomez as the agency's new administrator, effective last month.

Board chair Sixto Igisomar said yesterday that the trustees also named Esther Ada as the acting deputy administrator until the position is filled. Ada is the Fund's internal auditor.

According to Igisomar, the trustees are confident in Villagomez's capability to fulfill his duties and obligations with the Retirement Fund.

The administrator position was left vacant in July when Mark A. Aguon quit the Fund after about 18 years to pursue further studies off-island.

Villagomez has been holding the administrator position in an acting capacity since Aguon's departure. He is also the Fund's former investment manager.

Saipan Tribune tried yesterday to obtain comments from Villagomez on his plan for the Fund but was told he was in a meeting and did not return the call.

Igisomar said the trustees approved a one-year contract for Villagomez, subject to evaluation and assessment. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

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ESGR hands out Patriot Award to 30 individuals

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Guam-CNMI Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve presented the Patriot Award to 30 recipients during the "Lunch with the Boss Briefing" yesterday at Giovanni's.

The Patriot Award recognizes supervisors for their outstanding support to Guard and Reserve employees. Nominations for the Patriot Award must be made by the Guard and Reserve members or their families.

The awardees comprised 16 employers: Cape Air Connection, Capital Improvement Projects Office, CNMI Basic Center Program, CNMI Census 2010, Legislature, Public School System, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Continental Airlines, Department of Corrections, FGC Construction & Maintenance Inc., Joeten Motors, Northern Marianas College, Saipan Stevedore, Transportation Security Administration, and the Echo Company 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry.

All awardees received a certificate of recognition signed by ESGR national chair James Rebholz and executive director Ronald Young "for contributing to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Force."

Guam and CNMI state chair and retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino told *Saipan Tribune* that they recognize these employers for their support for the troops to gain and maintain employer support.

"These employers were recognized by their own employees. It's a very appropriate award. All we have to do is facilitate it," he said.

Paulino said that during their briefings with Guard and Reserve members, they inform them not only about their rights but also their responsibilities to their employers.

"You have to try and make it less stressful on your employer. Try to create harmony," he said, such as giving them advance notices on their deployment or by recognizing them.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Officers and volunteers of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Guam-CNMI Committee pose with the Patriot Award recipients during the "Lunch with the Boss Briefing" yesterday at Hyatt's Giovanni's Restaurant. The Patriot Award recognizes supervisors for their outstanding support to Guard and Reserve employees.

With the increase in demand for Guard and Reserve members, Paulino said there is also a parallel increase in demand for support from the employers of these service members.

To address this, Paulino said they reach out to these employers and, in fact, have met with over 1,100 employers this year through the "Lunch with the Boss Briefing," he said.

Through these briefings, Paulino said they are able to discuss with supervisors or managers who deal with service member employees about the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act.

USERRA is a federal law that establishes the rights and responsibilities of members of the National Guard and Reserve and their civilian employers. It affects employment, re-employment, employment benefits, and retention in employment when employees serve or have served in the uniformed services.

Paulino also recognized the staff and volunteers of the Guam-CNMI Committee who make employer briefings possible.

Paulino urged all employers to continue supporting their service member employees. "Support your troops. Understand the law. Make sure that you comply with the re-employment rights of these service members."

Established in 1972 under the Department of Defense, the ESGR seeks to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflicts through informal mediation.

Valiant Shield exercises on FDM, Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—Participants in the Valiant Shield military exercise will conduct training on Farallon de Medinilla on Sept. 19-20, from 2pm to 10pm, and on Warning Area-517 on Sept. 20, from 7am to 9pm and on Sept. 21, from 7am to 10pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and date indicated.

Valiant Shield, scheduled from Sept. 12-21, began in the vicinity of Palau and consists of an opposed transit as the ships steam east and ends near Guam. This is the third Valiant Shield conducted by the United States since June 2006.

The Valiant Shield exercise series focuses on integrated joint training among U.S. military forces. It enables real-world proficiency in sustaining joint forces' ability to detect, locate, track and engage units at sea, in the air, on land and in cyberspace in response to a range of mission areas.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the CNMI.

W-517 is an irregularly shaped polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. ***(USN)***

Another transfer station in southern Saipan 'difficult but not impossible'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Putting up a transfer station for the villages on the southern part of the island would not be easy, according to Department of Public Works Secretary Martin C. Sablan.

"It's a great idea. I'd like to see it happen. But it needs a lot of planning and we have to sit down with other regulatory agencies," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said garbage from villages down south, particularly Koblerville, has to be brought to the only transfer station on island, located in Lower Base.

Aside from planning and compliance with regulatory agencies, Sablan said putting up another transfer station will also require funding for the cost assessment and the additional manpower it will entail.

"Even a temporary transfer station would still require all of [those factors]," he added.

Sablan said the task of putting up a transfer station "might be difficult but it's not impossible."

"If we work together hand in hand, the private sector and government agencies, we can make it a reality," he said.

Sablan added that their Solid Waste Management Division plans to revive their program to educate people about the value of recycling.

"If we educate the public about recycling, it also helps our landfill," he said.

WORLD RESORT

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Must have a good knowledge of Microsoft computer software (word, excel/formula, and power point)

OPEN DATE:	SEPT. 16, 2010	**POSITION:**	Water Park Assistant Manager or Supervisor
CLOSE DATE:	SEPT. 24, 2010	**SALARY:**	Depend on Qualification

Job Qualification: High school graduate, plus 3 years experience in sports, recreation, and hospitality.
Must have a good knowledge of administrative functions and good public relation skills.

OPEN DATE:	SEPT. 16, 2010	**POSITION:**	Russian Guest Relation Officer/Front Office
CLOSE DATE:	SEPT. 24, 2010	**SALARY:**	Minimum Wage ~ $6.50/hr

Job Qualification: High school graduate, plus one year of experience in guest relations and front desk clerk.
Must speak Russian is required.

For more information you may contact Miriam K. Seman, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applications must include all the necessary requirements and submit employment application to the Security Office.

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Dozens of early risers join Sept. 'Strides'

It's still dark at 5:30am, but the cheery faces that turn up at Minatchom Atdao to register for the Commonwealth Cancer Association's *Second Saturday Strides* light up the whole pavilion.

Second Saturday Strides are fun runs/walks led by the Commonwealth Cancer Association on the second Saturday of every month to promote healthy physical activity in the community and raise funds for cancer programs. The most recent run/walk was held on Sept. 11, 2010, and marked the organization's second *Strides* event.

"Our very first *Strides* event was held on Aug. 14. Twenty-three people showed up to participate, and we raised about $300 in cash and in-kind contributions that morning," CCA fundraising chair Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero said. "The next *Strides* event, on Sept. 11, we had more than 30 people participate, including quite a few new faces, and this time we raised about $420 in cash and in-kind contributions. We hope the trend continues, and that we'll see even more participation and support from the community in the coming months."

"An early-morning walk is a great way to start the day, and the benefits of walking are well-known," said CCA senior adviser Dr. Jack Hardy.

Hardy has participated in both Strides events held in August and September.

"Walking is one of the easiest, cheapest, and most enjoyable ways to be physically active, and it can help reduce risk for cancer, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, and diabetes," he added.

Second Saturday Strides is made possible through the support and partnership of Micronesian Brokers (CNMI), Inc., Foremost Foods, the Department of Public Health's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and volunteers of the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

Samples of Ensure, Glucerna, and Quaker oatmeal bars from Micronesian Brokers, bottled water from Foremost Foods, and cancer awareness wristbands, pins, and visors from DPH, are just a few of the incentives given out to runners and walkers who participate in the *Strides*.

Last weekend, CCA volunteers Alexis Hofschneider and Nathania Maui helped set up the pavilion, register participants, and hand out incentives.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association requests a donation of $5 per person for *Second Saturday Strides*. All proceeds go to support the CCA's cancer awareness and patient support programs.

The next *Strides* event is scheduled for Oct. 9, 2010. For more information, or to find out how you can contribute, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

Organizers and participants of the Commonwealth Cancer Association's Second Saturday Strides gather early at the Minatchom Atdao to register before the walk.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Labor bags $73K to support federal labor certification programs for farm workers

The CNMI Department of Labor has received approval from the Office of Foreign Labor Certification of the U.S. Department of Labor of its "FY 2010 Annual Plan for Foreign Labor Certification."

The approval from the Washington D.C.-based Employment and Training Administration was accompanied by a grant award in the amount of $73,355.32. The funds are intended to support activities by the Office of Foreign Labor Certification in the H-2A program for the local agriculture industry.

While the CNMI Department of Labor has participated in an online training session, this is the first time it will officially participate, like other states, in Office of Foreign Labor Certification activities.

"I'd like to congratulate the CNMI Department of Labor for applying for and receiving this grant from the federal government which is recognition of the ongoing role that our CNMI Labor Department will play in foreign labor certification. It is important to have federal and Commonwealth laws operate in tandem regarding labor matters, as in other states and territories," said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

The grant awarded to the Labor will be used for the startup of Foreign Labor Certification under U.S. Department of Labor Planning Guidance for the local agriculture industry. Specifically, the program will provide funding to cover the work of CNMI Department of Labor employees in providing housing inspections and wage surveys. CNMI Labor will supplement the standard U.S. wage survey for the agriculture industry with a complete review of all alien CNMI farm labor contracts.

The CNMI also recently added farm workers to the central job order system created by the CNMI Department of Labor in recent years. The online job order system is designed to promote a statutory job preference for U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, and CNMI permanent residents. Job orders are posted for 14 days on the Web at www.marianaslabor.net in order to give qualified citizens an opportunity to apply.

At the present time, there were 114 job orders forecasted CNMI-wide for foreign agriculture workers that will fall under the H-2A program. ***(PR)***

Ex-Tinian DPW exec gets 3-month sentence

The Superior Court has imposed a three-month prison term on a former official of the Tinian Department of Public Works who was accused of using DPW funds to buy fuel for his personal use.

The 56-year-old Gilbert I. Macaranas pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office as part of a plea bargain and was sentenced to one year in prison, all suspended except for three months.

He was directed to begin serving sentence at the Department of Corrections on Saipan on Oct. 1, 2010, at 8am.

Associate Judge David Wiseman placed Macaranas on two years of probation and required him to pay restitution, court assessment fee, and probation fee.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Macaranas with theft by failure to make required disposition of funds received, theft by deception, and misconduct in public office.

Macaranas agreed to plead guilty to misconduct in exchange for the dismissal of the other charges.

According to the agreement, between Jan 1, 2009 and Nov. 30, 2009 on Tinian, Macaranas unlawfully obtained fuel for his personal use by using a DPW purchase account with Tinian Fuel Services Inc.

Macaranas used his position as the Tinian resident department head of DPW to purchase the fuel.

"Such misconduct in public office violates the trust of the people of Tinian," the agreement stated.

The amount of fuel was not mentioned.

Macaranas was represented by lawyer Janet King. The government was represented by assistant attorney general Russell Lorfing. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 16, 1999

Teno hopes for the best

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said yesterday the government will make its specific comments on the provisions of S.1052 after U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Frank Murkowski asked them to do so during a hearing held in Washington D.C. He expressed relief, however, that Murkowski "is very sympathetic" to the conditions on the island and has acknowledged his administration's efforts to reform local labor and immigration. "The chairman asked us if we can comment more specifically on the bill," Tenorio said in a telephone interview from his hotel room in D.C. after attending Tuesday's hearing. The governor declined to answer questions on its outcome, saying only that Murkowski "is very sympathetic and acknowledged that we made some improvements on our immigration and labor."

Sablan OKs bill on health and criminal clearances

Acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan yesterday signed into law a bill which established standards for acceptance of health clearances and criminal background checks provided in foreign countries for the purpose of entering the Commonwealth and obtaining work permits. However, he vetoed another measure requiring all dive shop operators in the CNMI to employ at least one local resident as an instructor or dive master. Senate Bill 11-153 which became Public Law 11-97 aims to improve the reliability of health clearances and criminal background checks submitted to the Department of Labor and Immigration.

Sept. 16, 2002

Pangelinan declines AG appointment

Gov. Juan N. Babauta said that former Washington Representative Ed Pangelinan has declined to be appointed as the new Attorney General, replacing former AG Robert Torres. "Mr. Pangelinan has declined. We're back to the drawing board now," Babauta said on Friday. Prior reports had quoted Pangelinan as refusing the position but this was the first time that Babauta officially confirmed receiving Pangelinan's refusal of the offer. Babauta said his office would act quickly on finding other potential appointees for the AG position.

Court affirms termination of DPS worker

The Superior Court has set aside a Civil Service Commission order directing that a corrections officer terminated from his employment for sexual harassment be given back his position as long as he will not be working anymore with female employees. By setting aside the commission's determination and order, the court virtually affirmed the termination of Jose T. Chong by the Department of Public Safety. In a 12-page order, Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ruled in favor of the petition for judicial review sought by the DPS, saying that two of the grounds cited by the police department merited the setting aside of the commission's order.

Sept. 16, 2003

NMC Liberal Arts, GE courses to move to La Fiesta

Liberal Arts, Humanities, and other general education courses will be offered at the newly acquired Northern Marianas College-La Fiesta campus beginning next year. In a recent meeting attended by about 50 instructors and key NMC officials, it was learned that the School of Education, Nursing, and Physical Education, and the Cooperative Research Education and Extension Services would remain at the As Terlaje campus. Other programs such as community-based courses and computer courses would be offered on both campuses. Student services-counseling, tutoring, and the like-would "have elements here and there."

Use of media in litigation is counterproductive'

In its decision reducing the expenses being asked by lawyers of the class action suit filed against garment firms, the U.S. District Court affirmed that the use of the media as part of litigation efforts is counterproductive and its rationale unacceptable. Chief Judge Alex R. Munson said it is the courts that determine the outcome of a case, and the court's decision is based on all the facts—not on what kind of public opinion can be generated through the media. In asking for reimbursement for media expenses, lawyers for the plaintiffs had argued that "media strategies" have become commonplace in present-day, high profile litigations, and that it has become so common that seminars are offered on the subject of using the media as part of the litigation efforts.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Volume XX, Issue No. 221

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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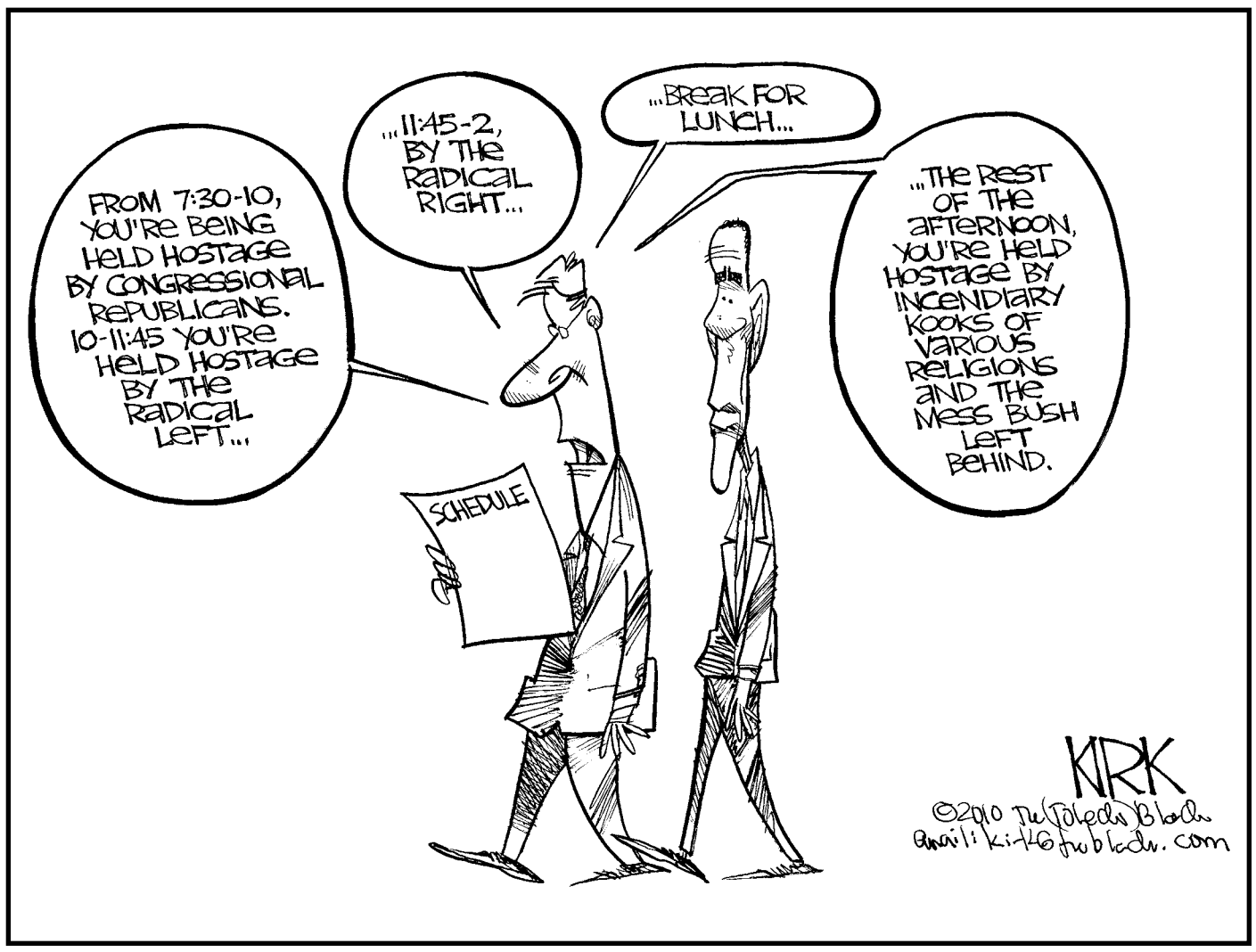
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...11:45-2, BY THE RADICAL RIGHT...
...BREAK FOR LUNCH...
...THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON, YOU'RE HELD HOSTAGE BY INCENDIARY KOOKS OF VARIOUS RELIGIONS AND THE MESS BUSH LEFT BEHIND.
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Tinian Mafia Lady

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

I am with a group of writers (Jane Mack, Joe Race, Angelo Villagomez) trying to produce an anthology of *Tales from Wild Bill's Café*. Here's a story:

Taxi drivers still give me a second look. "Mo Mo?" they ask. I just smile. Then, when I recognize who the drivers are, I call them by their first name, and they beam. My memory is good. That's probably why I was good at my trade. I distributed "ice" (methamphetamine) to front line distributors on Tinian for a while, until I got caught. I didn't even think twice when I pled "guilty." I was, and got sentenced to a year in prison with a provision that after time is served, I would be deported to my home of origin.

But first, my name, or the one I am known by. *Mo mo* in Hangeul (Korean) simply means, "someone," a generic somebody, an assertion of self-hood without being tied to specifics. To the Chamorro, it is a "fight," the Japanese a "peachy fruit," the Chinese the "hair on one's arm that stands when terrified or in fear," and a "ghost" to Filipinos. Among Pacific islanders, particularly the Hawaiians, it is pronounced like the long dress with flower prints that the missionaries required their new converts to wear, hiding pulchritude from the tender looks of the sea surfing gentle souls.

However it was meant, I stuck my meaning with the Korean. Chinese in Yanbian *Dong Bei* (Korea in China in the Northeast), my genetics are Koryo on both sides, so identity with the Hans is in language and culture, but I find closer affinity to the wildness of the Manchus or Manchuria!

It was this wildness that got me to where I am, which is to say, a circular wild ride to nowhere. In Chinese-Korean families, the daughter is not always valued as much as the son, and though I was older than my brother, he was groomed to carry on the family name and the priority that implies. I fell off a high fence wall when I was 12, trying to sneak back home at midnight; I got into a motorcycle accident with my boyfriend at 16. Scars and a deformed left arm testify to both.

My folks did not approve of my boyfriend so I ran away with him at 18. We were not prurient but practical, so though we enjoyed each other's company, touchy-feely and otherwise, we were too scared to have kids. Sex is not a big deal when I was growing up, unlike the obsession it appears to be among the young on Saipan, so there was no pressure to connect until, and neither of us knew how, but of course, the hormones finally drove us under the covers. I had my daughter when I was 20. My significant other had difficulty holding on to a job, thought of himself as a Yanbian James Dean, with an affinity to *su jou* and *pe jou* (liquor and beer), and I was left raising a daughter and running a restaurant to keep the home purse resident to a few shekels.

One day, my "husband" came home with the news that a Korean-owned garment factory in the United States was hiring, and a friend's wife had gone to America and is sending a steady monthly income of $400-500 back home. I was not asked to go, I was told to go. For daughter and domestic tranquility, I consented and packed.

Little did I know that America would be an island in the Pacific (I had not been anywhere far from the peach orchards along the river *Tumen Jiang*), isolated and as civil as the yak herds of Inner Mongolia! Two years in front of a sewing machine, my *dagan* darkened

See TINIAN on Next Page

The problem is the solution

"A problem well stated is a problem half-solved."—Charles Kettering, American inventor

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

Often, a problem holds within it the seed to the solution that is sought. So it is with the many issues plaguing the CNMI. With the economy falling, businesses failing, unemployment rising, and families worrying whether they'll receive a government paycheck on payday, there is a lot to be concerned about. Offering solutions such as casinos on Saipan and legalizing marijuana may address the economic aspect of the problem; however, some "solutions" may also carry with them a host of social issues that could far outweigh any financial results. In this case, the solution could become the problem.

Identifying and stating the core problem is the first step toward resolving it. Once it is understood and addressed, the pernicious symptoms will eventually dissipate. All of our woes and our ultimate solution to issues being faced in business, government, education, and families are found in this one answer: leadership. Leadership is both the problem and the solution.

Sure, many of the situations we're facing were caused by external influences that appear out of our control; however, effective leadership has the foresight to anticipate and deal with these difficulties. Using a metaphor, if the group you are part of can be compared to a ship at sea, and the captain represents leadership, then it is the ultimate responsibility of the captain to lead the crew and passengers safely to the desired destination. The captain has a clear picture of where the ship is heading, a plan to get there, makes preparations with the proper resources, ensures the crew is well-trained to understand their roles and expectations, and anticipates any storms that may arise.

> *Anyone can lead a ship that sails in calm weather, but the real leaders are honed in the midst of adversity. It is in those times of our greatest distress that the true transformational leader rises to the call to solve our greatest problems.*

Once underway, the captain constantly monitors the status of the ship and quickly makes decisions to remain on course. If difficulties arise, the situation is accurately assessed to determine the best response among alternatives, appropriate people are apprised of the situation, and course corrections are made until the mission is completed. In a worst-case scenario a contingency plan is ready to implement, the captain is aware of what is essential and what may need to be sacrificed, tough decisions are made, and if needed, the lifeboats are boarded to ensure the ships most precious cargo will be safe.

Anyone can lead a ship that sails in calm weather, but the real leaders are honed in the midst of adversity. It is in those times of our greatest distress that the true transformational leader rises to the call to solve our greatest problems. A powerful example of the influence of a leader on a community can be found in Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's first prime minister in 1959. At the time of Singapore's independence from Malaysia in 1965, its future appeared bleak. It had little land, no natural resources, poverty and corruption were rampant, ethnic strife between factions of Chinese, Malays, and Indians threatened to tear this small island nation apart. In addition, Singapore was heavily dependent on financial assistance from Great Britain.

Lee Kuan Yew's extraordinary leadership during a three-decade period is considered by many as an economic and social miracle. Singapore transformed from labor-intensive industries to develop its human capital and high technology. At each stage of development, input was sought from citizens to strengthen their sense of identity and create greater buy-in to his vision.

Lee Kuan Yew focused on developing Singapore's people, and getting the best individuals to fill critical positions. Human resource development was stressed through educational and vocational programs. Literacy rates rose from 72 percent in 1970 to 92 percent by 1990. Not only was Lee Kuan Yew a leader, he looked for and fostered leadership from within. In a speech to Parliament in 1994, he said: "Singapore must get some of its best in each year's crop of graduates into government. When I say best, I don't mean just academic results, which indicate only the power of analysis. You've then got to assess him for his sense of reality, his imagination, his quality of leadership, his dynamism. But most of all, his character and his motivation, because the smarter a man is, the more harm he might do to society."

See THE PROBLEM on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

What is a co-op utility?

A "co-op utility" is a utility company owned and operated by its shareholders. Who is a shareholder? Anyone who buys shares in the company is a shareholder. It will be totally independent from the government and the politicians. When the company makes money it is paid to the shareholders in the form of dividends. My idea is to have a six-person management team run the co-op. One person who knows power generation, one person who knows power distribution, one person who knows water drilling and distribution, one person who knows wastewater treatment and disposal, and the most important position, a comptroller who is experienced with utility companies. The last is a lawyer with utility company experience; who can write RFP's that will not be challenged.

To get the co-op started is not going to be easy. We will have to borrow money to buy CUC from the government. This is where CDA might come into play, plus that is what the sale of share will help pay. We are going to need money to get it repaired and back on its feet. There are a lot of U.S. government grants that are available to co-op utilities. And it is my plan to go after every grant that is available. There are also grants for alternative power options, which we can make the most of.

So why should we go to a co-op? The main reason is to get the government and all the well-meaning politicians out of it and let the people who know what they are doing run it. Let me give you and example. Several years ago we had an electrical engineer who had a bright idea of how to save CUC money. He decided to switch the street lights from mercury vapor bulbs to sodium lamps. Even though the sodium bulbs are cheaper, they do not have the bulb life of the mercury vapor bulbs. And guess what? They ended up costing CUC more than the mercury bulbs. CUC lost money in the long run.

Now the governor and the acting director of CUC want to make the same mistake again. How can you ever get ahead when you keep repeating the same mistakes over and over again? This is just one example; I could list many more and they have all cost the ratepayers money. By ratepayers I mean anyone who pays a bill at CUC.

By the way, as you drive down Middle Road at night, look at the street lights. The ones that have a yellow look to them are the sodium bulbs. Compare the amount of light they put out to the brightness of the white lamps. They are the mercury vapor lights. If you take a good look, I am sure you will be able to tell the difference.

They want you to believe that the mercury vapor bulbs are dangerous to our health. If that were true would the EPA allow their use? Nice try, governor but no cigar.

If the people of the CNMI want to take control of their future, now is the time to start. And CUC is the place to start. Remember, whoever controls your utility company controls the island. Keep that in mind.

Frederick Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

Dead wrong

This is to respond to Congressman Kilili's news release, *Saipan Tribune*, Nov. 10, 2010, titled "Steele out of touch with NMI realities."

I have to admit that Mr. Gregorio Sablan is correct that Mr. Michael Steele is out of touch with the CNMI. Chairman Michael Steele has never been to the CNMI in the past, and most importantly, he is not from the CNMI. So simply put, Mr. Steele will definitely be out of touch to a place he never lived or visited.

Listening to Mr. Steele when he was making the comment, "there is no need for more economic stimulus" to the media on the night of Sept. 10, 2010, is not about the CNMI and our needs. The gist of his statement is about the future generations of the American people who have to pay for the deficits the economic stimulus has created. Secondly, everyday, CNN and Fox News are reporting about the first $814 billion that the Obama administration and the Democratic Congress have put into law. Both news media have reported that not even half of the $814 billion has been spent. No jobs have been created by this economic stimulus. So definitely, Mr. Steele is correct that there is no need for more economic stimulus.

Perhaps Congressman Kilili is out of touch with what is going on in the United States, particularly in the halls of Congress. Perhaps he is not listening to all the debate about the economic stimulus that is going on. Perhaps he is not aware that even Democratic economists and Democrat members of the House of Representatives do not support the additional economic stimulus. I should not be taking time to learn about the issues if you are doing your job and reporting them to the general public. I have you in Congress to do the job. I am disturbed to be telling you what to do, but I am obligated to do so. Please do your job.

Here is my recommendation to you, Congressman Kilili. As my representative in Congress, please build your relationship with the congresswoman from Guam and the congressman from American Samoa. I understand that you cannot have anything pass in the Insular Areas Subcommittee because Congresswoman Bordallo is the chairwoman. Maybe you could make me believe that she has forgotten the "over my dead body" comment you made for her Marianas Trench Monument Visitors' Center initiative. Perhaps she has taken the initiative because you have failed to submit your bill. If you think that I would think that she has forgotten your uncalled for comment, it will be over my dead body.

On a last note, your statement that Mr. Steele is in the CNMI lobbying for his re-election for the RNC chairmanship is dead wrong. I was at the gathering that night and I did not hear Chairman Steele mention anything about the RNC election in January 2011. Again you are dead wrong. And what if he did? It is none of your business.

Sid Kani
Tanapag, Saipan

A glitch at SHEFA

Buenas and *tirow*, fellow citizens of the Marianas. This letter is to address a minor problem that happened to me at the SHEFA Office. I am an NMC student studying in the field of education. Last fall 2009 I worked hard to earn good grades so that I could qualify for the SHEFA incentive. Eventually my grades met the requirements and I qualified. This morning I went down to the SHEFA office again to verify the release date for the incentive check from last semester and the scholarship check for this semester. To my surprise, one of the ladies there said my grades weren't qualified. But I waited for the workers to verify before they acknowledge that they accidentally entered my grades in another student's file and I was given that other student's grades. I don't know if this is the first time this happened but it was in my case. I mean how come transcripts are required? How many eyes go through each student's file before checks are listed into batches? What procedure does your office have that simple mistakes like this are overlooked? How do you plan to get back the mailed check if it has already been used up? Are you going to deny the other student a scholarship this semester for your mistake? I just hope this problem doesn't happen again in the future, especially for off-island students because it is our money earned by qualifying.

Betry Seman Mike Jr.
NMC-School of Ed. Student

The Steele revelation

The recent visit of Michael Steele revealed some very interesting and even good things as to the political future of the CNMI. It should be obvious to every voter that, when the governor made a special effort to meet and greet Mr. Steele, his coming represented something big and important, especially when the governor had to cross party lines for this special occasion. There were other former GOP members that supported other parties in the past election at the special gathering for Mr. Steele at Mr. Babauta's home, which tells me the GOP is starting to reunite given the magnitude of the national GOP's support. The leaders of the CNMI, regardless of their party affiliation, realized the importance of Michael Steele's visit and what it would mean for the CNMI to have the national GOP supporting our delegate.

I have been saying how important Mr. Steele's visit was to the CNMI every since I heard he was coming and now some of our top officials have literally shown voters how important Mr. Steele's endorsement means to the CNMI. Mr. Steele's visit represents a great opportunity for everyone in the CNMI.

As for our present delegate saying Mr. Steele is out of touch, he just alienated himself from all the GOP in the U.S. Congress by bashing the national GOP chair! The sad part is he did it at the same time when many voters and elected officials are excited and literally praying we can get the right person to Washington to have the support of the GOP in Congress. Mr. Steele was also referring to the big picture in the mainland when he was referring to ending the stimulus because in the same breath he said we need to help small businesses grow and create more jobs. Well, we need an entire industry of small businesses to grow so there will be more and better paying jobs, which makes him dead right about what the CNMI needs.

I knew this delegate race had the potential to be a game changer in the politics of the CNMI and in Washington and seeing the governor and other officials coming together for Mr. Steele may just be a genuine revelation of things to come in the political future of the CNMI. I say this because maybe, just maybe, the people will finally come together to be a majority of one people headed in one direction for the candidate that has the best potential to be successful for the CNMI in Washington.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

THE PROBLEM

From Page 10

The results are astounding. Singapore was transformed from being a Third World into a First World nation in one generation. It is rated as the most business-friendly economy in the world, according to the World Bank. The per capita Gross Domestic Product rose from $400 in 1959 to $50,523 in 2009. In 1970, about 9 percent of the population was living in owner-occupied housing, but in 1990 it rose to 90 percent. Singapore is promoting itself as a medical tourism hub, with the goal to serve one million patients annually by 2012, generate an additional USD 3 billion in revenue, and create 13,000 new jobs.

True leaders bring more than just hope where there is despair. They are people of character and competence who inspire others toward a greater purpose and in the process make a greater contribution in the lives of those they serve. Leaders know how to get results not just in financial capital, but also in human capital. This takes vision, integrity, perseverance, and humility to recognize and admit mistakes, then learn from them. Just as there would be no modern Singapore without the leadership of Lee Kuan Yew; leadership will ultimately be the solution to our greatest challenges in the CNMI.

TINIAN

From Page 10

like the rest of the ladies in the lines, and for a pittance. The promised pot of gold was not even painted with the element, let alone solidly made of *aurum*. Instead, we were worked to the bone and no one kept close track of the overtime. In two years, I barely recouped the initial cost of coming to Saipan in the first place.

Hungry to grab some green backs before returning home, I first tried waitressing but the only weight I gained was in the mid-section. Then I discovered romance. He was a *param dong yi* (playboy) but incredibly romantic and handsome. Together, we fell into making lots of money. "Ice" was in demand and I sourced while he sold. He sent money to his family in the Philippines, and my daughter got more than a regular monthly support. But then, we discovered poker and the casino. I did not notice how badly I was on the way to perdition until I dropped $10,000 playing the tables within 48 hours. Before I knew it, my savings went to bail out my lover's failed investment, then life together became unbearable, and we finally parted.

The story is familiar. Dealer became own customer when the going got rough, and soon, I was dipping my nose into my own commodity. I thought I would be protected by those who depended on my goods and services. Mo Mo earned the reputation of "Tinian Mafia lady" but there was really no mafia, yet the illusions of my youth with the black leather jacket on a motorbike and gel-spiked hairdo prevailed, save this time, I drove a limo-sized Buick consistently high on "ice."

Romance gone, but still suffused with greed and no longer particular about the company I kept, the long arm of the law finally came knocking at my door. Served time, I did. Even got a tattoo to show for it. On the day I was to be released and deported, no one could locate my passport, and there hangs the other half of my tale.

Wang Zhimu became my guardian, which led me to Mr. V to chronicle my journey. Like the admonition of the old American soap operas on TV that has since been surpassed by Korean sagas and Spanish sob stories on DVD, "tune in again for the next episode." Tomorrow.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

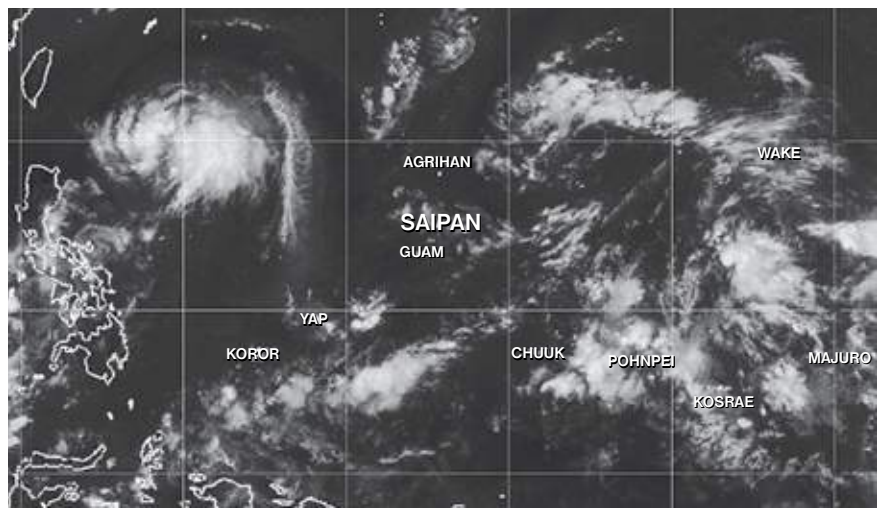
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲87	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼54
Beijing	Showers	▲79	▼66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼70
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
New York	Showers	▲72	▼63
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼69
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼45
Pusan	Windy	▲81	▼70
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼66
Salem	Showers	▲75	▼60
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼59
Seoul	Sunny	▲82	▼67
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼70
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with newly formed TD 12W are located along our western boundary and south of Okinawa from 16N to 23N and west of 135E. Refer to JTWC Bulletin WTPN31 PGTW or from JMA RJTD for further information on this system. Scattered showers and pockets of isolated thunderstorms are found along a series of upper-level lows to the north and northeast of the Marianas and in the vicinity of Wake Island and are located from 20N to 25N between 141E and 144E and from 18N to 24N between 149E and 168E. In addition, a weaker area of isolated showers and thunderstorms associated with this same upper-level feature is located over and to the east of the Marianas from 13N to 16N between 143E and 155E. A weak surface trough stretches between Guam and Koror and is bringing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 4N132E south of Koror and 7N146E in western Chuuk state. This same feature is helping to develop a smaller area of isolated showers and thunderstorms near Yap from 8N to 10N between 137E and 142E. In southeast Micronesia trade-wind convergence and weak troughing are helping to develop wide-spread scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within the ITCZ from 4N to 9N between 153E and 173E. This area starts just east of Chuuk and includes Pohnpei, Kosrae, Kwajalein and Majuro. It also includes areas between 10N and 15N from 154E to 158E from 162E to 168E and from 170E to 178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
8:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
4:05 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:18 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:16 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:15 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:21 PM	
Friday	2:09 PM	12:49 AM
Saturday	2:52 PM	1:42 AM
Sunday	3:32 PM	2:33 AM
Monday	4:10 PM	3:21 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Democratic Party scores Election Commission, files complaint vs AG

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Committee to Elect Jesus C. Borja of the Democratic Party criticized the Commonwealth Election Commission for its recent ruling that no representative from the Office of the Attorney General will be present in polling places on Nov. 2.

The same group, headed by Roy M. Pangelinan, also reiterated its complaint against Attorney General Edward Buckingham who they claim violated the Constitution by publicly showing support to Covenant Party nominee Joseph N. Camacho.

The committee's complaint was filed with the Election Commission, Office of the Public Auditor, and the OAG yesterday.

The Democratic Party particularly took note of Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero's recent statement that barred OAG personnel from serving as observers in the Nov. 2 polls.

Guerrero pointed out, though, that the election board adopted the idea during its Sept. 7 meeting at the recommendation of the commission's legal counsel.

"That's a board decision during its Sept. 7 meeting," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The Borja committee also slammed the Election Commission for saying the OAG does not have control over the conduct of any election, and comes in only when there are election complaints.

Guerrero explained, however, that this is what the Constitution clearly established.

The governor's certification of six Election Commission personnel was also criticized by Borja's committee, describing them as "new political appointees" and are "unacceptable" and "ridiculous" when the government is struggling to find money to meet its payroll.

Guerrero pointed out, though, that the committee has been misled by false information.

He disclosed that the six positions are not new hires but renewals of current commission employees whose contracts will expire on Oct. 1.

The commission has a total of seven employees, including the executive director. Guerrero said the certification is a normal procedure in the renewal of contracts for government employees.

He urged the committee to check its facts first before coming up with unfounded allegations.

Borja's committee renewed its call to investigate Buckingham, saying it is not sufficient for the attorney general to state that he has simply recused himself from the election process. The committee called for an independent oversight of this year's election to preserve public confidence in the Nov. 2 polls.

Guerrero said, however, that the law clearly established the Election Commission as the sole authority to conduct the poll.

ESGR WEEK
Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated second from left, poses with officials and members of the Guam-CNMI Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve after signing the proclamation that declares the week of Sept 12-18, 2010, as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week in the CNMI. During CNMI Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, the Commonwealth will honor the islands' courageous Guardsmen and Reservists and their employers, whose continued support is vital to the success of the Anned Forces and to the strength of the country.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC develops plan to create a 'Learning Community'

The Northern Marianas College recently developed a plan to establish a "Learning Community," which aims to create a supportive and inclusive learning environment that promotes the highest educational, intellectual and social development of students.

The college indicated that it is on track to fully implementing the Learning Communities Program by the spring semester, 2011.

Six faculty and staff members recently attended the annual National Summer Institute on Learning Communities at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. NMC was one of 23 colleges and universities selected to participate.

The NSILC assists staff and faculty members of various public and private postsecondary institutions with learning how to start or strengthen "learning community" programs in their campuses.

To learn how this new concept can benefit and be applied to the college, Geri Willis, Learning Communities Program, Student Engagement, First-Year Experiences director, assembled a team of highly qualified NMC faculty and staff members with diverse educational and professional backgrounds, as well as a multitude of experiences, to attend the NSILC.

"The individuals were selected based on their commitment and willingness to undertake this difficult task," said Willis.

NMC

NMC staff and faculty who are working to establish the "Learning Community" program at the college. From left, John Jenkins, Larry Lee, Tom Colton, interim president Lorraine Cabrera, Lisa Hacskaylo, Geri Willis, Zenaida Javier, Ed Camacho, and Eric Abragan.

"This will be the first time for a core group of NMC educators to collaborate in the development of a unique program from inception to fruition."

The team members include Willis; NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera; outreach counselor, Liberal Arts degree program adviser, and Associated Students of NMC adviser Zenaida Javier; Institutional Effectiveness researcher Lisa Hacskaylo; business instructor and Faculty Senate president Larry Lee; and English instructor and adviser Tom Colton.

Over 30 professionals from throughout the U.S. convened at Evergreen to work with teams to develop a Plan of Action. Workshops were designed around consulting with experienced learning community practitioners. With the guidance of the resource faculty at the NSILC, the team created a comprehensive two-year campus action plan for the development and implementation of a learning community program at NMC.

"The foundation of a learning community is the social and intellectual relationships developed between students and their instructors, and students and other students," said Willis. "This level of communication allows instructors to learn more about their students in order to better instruct and assist them. It also enhances a greater sense of community on campus."

A successful learning community leadership will focus on the following: Mission Statement, Goals and Outcomes; Academic Faculty; Faculty and Staff Development and Support; Learning Community Models and Offerings; Involvement of Academic Advisors/Mentors; Admission and Records; Information Technology; Student Services; Publicity and Marketing; Registrar/Registration; Program Delivery, Courses/Links; Assessment and Evaluation.

A learning community is commonly defined as courses that are linked together and taken by the same group of students in order to provide these students opportunities for deeper understanding and integration of the material they are learning, and more interactions with one another and their instructors.

Willis said, "A learning community helps students to improve critical thinking skills by sharing and connecting topics, ideas and assignments between courses, in addition to developing leadership, problem-solving and strong communication skills "

"At the institute, we learned that students who participated in learning communities succeeded at higher rates than students who took stand-alone courses," said Cabrera. "This is one of the reasons why we want to utilize this concept at NMC.

"Attending the NSILC provided us great insight, strategies and techniques on how to effectively integrate departments, programs, staff and faculty members into a cohesive, successful community," said Cabrera.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program funded NMC's participation in the NSILC. ***(NMC)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Happy birthday greetings go out to a swell young man, Lester Floyd Guevarra, the pride of the Guevarra family, who is celebrating his 12th birthday today! Greetings come from you Papa, Mama, and the rest of the family!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Lennie Hermosilla, who is celebrating her special day today, Sept. 16, 2010! May you have a blast on your special day and we pray that you will have many, many more birthdays to come. Greetings come with love from Mom, Val, Mar, and kids, and especially your husband, Jun, your two girls, and Nacio Boy.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Jerick Russell, who is celebrating his 2nd birthday today, Sept. 16, 2010! Happy birthday Jerby, from Tita Ana and friends.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Japan intervenes in currency market to weaken yen

TOKYO (AP)—Japan intervened in the currency market Wednesday for the first time in six years to weaken the yen, which had spiked to 15-year highs against the dollar, battering the country's vital exporters.

The dollar bounced up to 84.52 yen from a low of 82.87 yen earlier after Japan's central bank stepped into the market to sell yen and buy dollars shortly after 10:30 a.m. local time (0130 GMT). It was the first time since March 2004 that Japan had intervened in the currency market.

"We have conducted an intervention in order to suppress excessive fluctuations in the currency market," said Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda.

"We will closely monitor currency developments, and take firm action including intervention," Noda said.

The yen had spiked to a fresh 15-year high after Prime Minister Naoto Kan survived a leadership challenge by winning a ruling party vote Tuesday. Currency traders had bet that Kan was unlikely to intervene.

A strong yen hurts Japanese exporters like Honda Motor Co. and Panasonic Corp. by making their products less competitive in overseas markets and eroding their foreign income when repatriated.

Noda said Japan acted alone in intervening in the market and that other central banks were not involved. That caused some analysts to predict the impact of the intervention would be short-lived.

"The effect from Japan's solo intervention won't last very long. We have to see how the U.S. and European monetary authorities would react," said Yuji Kameoka, chief forex strategist at Daiwa Institute.

Japanese officials would not provide a figure for how much yen the central bank had sold in the market.

Bank of Japan Gov. Masaaki Shirakawa also confirmed the intervention, highlighting in a statement uncertainty over the future of the U.S. economy.

"Currency movement and stock prices have been unstable, turning into a situation that requires caution over the downside risk for the economy in our country," Shirakawa said.

The central bank would continue to pursue an easy money policy and "provide ample money supply into the financial market," he said.

The dollar hit a postwar record low of 79.75 yen in 1995.

AP

A money trader reacts at a dealing room at a foreign exchange firm where the U.S. dollar hit the new 15-year low against yen in Tokyo, Japan, Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2010.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Investigators say egg company knew of salmonella

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Iowa egg farm at the center of a massive salmonella outbreak received hundreds of positive results for salmonella in the two years before its eggs sickened more than 1,500 people, congressional investigators said Tuesday. In a letter to the company's owner, the House Energy and Commerce Committee said its investigators had obtained records showing Wright County Egg received 426 positive results for salmonella between 2008 and 2010. The company recalled 380 million eggs in August after its products were linked to hundreds of illnesses. The committee said the positive results found over the last two years included 73 samples that were potentially positive for Salmonella Enteritidis, the strain responsible for the recent outbreak.

Toyota moves to toss sudden-acceleration suits

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—Toyota Motor Corp. has moved to dismiss hundreds of lawsuits over claims stemming from sudden acceleration in its vehicles. The auto giant filed a motion Tuesday with a federal court in Santa Ana, saying attorneys for Toyota drivers had failed to identify any defects in the vehicles. Hundreds of lawsuits were filed against Toyota after the automaker began recalling millions of vehicles because of acceleration problems in several models and brake glitches with the Prius hybrid. All of the federal cases were consolidated and assigned to a federal judge in Santa Ana. Some plaintiffs claimed Toyota's electronic throttle control system has a defect. On Tuesday, lawyers for Toyota said there was no evidence of a flaw.

San Francisco lawmakers pass alcohol services fee

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—San Francisco lawmakers on Tuesday approved a fee on alcohol distribution to help the city recover the cost of dealing with problem drinkers, but the measure faces a likely mayoral veto. The Board of Supervisors voted 7-3 to impose the fee on liquor wholesalers, brew pubs and winemakers beginning Jan. 1. It needed eight votes, however, to survive a promised veto from Mayor Gavin Newsom. Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier recused herself from the vote because she and her husband own a wine business. Under the proposal, the first of its kind in California, alcohol distributors would be charged 35 cents for every gallon of beer they sell, $1 for a gallon of wine and $3.20 for a gallon of hard liquor.

August retail sales up 0.4 pct., best in 5 months

WASHINGTON (AP)—Retail sales rose in August by the largest amount in five months, adding to evidence that a late spring economic swoon was temporary and not the start of another recession.

Retail sales increased 0.4 percent last month, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. It was the second straight monthly increase and the biggest gain since March.

Excluding a decline in autos, retail sales increased 0.6 percent. That followed two relatively flat months and a sharp drop in May.

A separate Commerce report said inventories held by businesses jumped in July by the largest amount in two years while sales rebounded after two months of declines. The rebound in sales was an encouraging sign that consumer demand is rising after two weak months. Businesses build up their stocks when they anticipate stronger retail demand in the months ahead.

The strength in August retail sales came in a number of areas from department stores to clothing stores and sporting goods outlets. However, bigger-ticket items such as furniture and electronics fell last month.

Best Buy said Tuesday that its fiscal second-quarter net income rose 60 percent. The retailer's standalone mobile stores helped to boost profits. Shoppers bought cell phones, appliances and tablet computers. Still, sales of televisions, video game consoles, video games, music and movies all fell.

Retail sales rose a revised 0.3 percent in July after posting back-to-back declines in May and June. Those decreases had raised concerns that the economic recovery was losing strength and that a second recession was possible. Consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of total economic activity.

Even with the sales rebound in July and August, economists expect 2 percent growth in the second half of this year. That would be better than the 1.6 percent growth rate in the April-to-June quarter. But it would be well below the January-to-March quarter's 3.7 percent growth rate and not enough to lower the 9.6 percent unemployment rate.

Analysts cautioned that the August retail sales figures may not indicate a trend. Discounts on back-to-school merchandise helped drive gains of lower-priced items, such as clothing, they note. At the same time, the weak housing market has dampened demand for more expensive items. Furniture sales were down 0.5 percent, the fourth decline in the past five months.

Some Dems wary of leaving out rich from tax cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional Democrats on Tuesday wrestled over whether to abandon President Barack Obama's tax cut plan, with some House moderates joining Republicans in calling for an extension of Bush-era breaks for the wealthy as well as middle-income earners.

But Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi remained solidly behind Obama's proposal to allow tax cuts for upper-income people to expire as scheduled at the end of the year. From lunchtime into the evening, the leaders met behind closed doors with members concerned that voters would punish Democrats on Election Day if tax cuts are extended for some Americans, but not all.

"We are in listening mode," said Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, chief of the House Democrats' campaign committee.

What they heard Tuesday on both sides of the Capitol indicated divisions among Democrats that contrasted with strong unity among Republicans in supporting a full renewal of all tax cuts, regardless of income, despite a 10-year cost to the government of about $700 billion above Obama's plan. Still, House Republican leader John Boehner said over the weekend he would vote to extend the relief for only middle-income Americans if that were the only option available.

Some House Democrats, particularly moderates facing difficult re-election battles in districts carried by GOP presidential nominee John McCain two years ago, agree with a proposal offered by Republicans for a short-term renewal of all of the Bush-era tax cuts.

"We look forward to working with you to extend all income tax rates," a small group of conservative-to-moderate House Democrats wrote in a draft letter to party leaders as lawmakers trickled back into town Tuesday from their summer break.

Democratic Reps. Jim Matheson of Utah, Melissa Bean of Illinois and Glenn Nye of Virginia were circulating the letter for more signatures Tuesday afternoon and were picking up support.

"Don't raise taxes in a recession," said Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D.

This was not the debate Democrats wanted as the midterm election season opened. The plan was to make an extension of the middle-class tax cut the party's closing argument—against Republicans, not each other—as voters began to focus on whether they trust Democrats to improve the ailing economy enough to reward them with control of Congress for another two years.

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
10,526.49	1,121.10	2,289.77
-17.64	-0.80	+4.06
-0.17%	-0.07%	+0.18%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0711	Hong Kong Dollar	7.767	Philippine Peso	44.14
British Pound	0.6493	Indian Rupee	46.397	Singapore Dollar	1.3373
Canadian Dollar	1.0285	Indonesian Rupiah	8932.5	South Korean Won	1160.9
Chinese Yuan	6.7618	Japanese Yen	83.645	Swiss Franc	1.0079
Euro	0.7767	Malaysian Ringgit	3.101	Taiwan Dollar	31.746
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3702	Thailand Baht	30.745

Nation

American woman freed by Iran after bail deal

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—In just a few dizzying hours, American Sarah Shourd exchanged a cell in Tehran's Evin Prison for a private jet crossing the Persian Gulf on Tuesday, after an apparent diplomatic deal to cover a $500,000 bail and secure a release that seemed in jeopardy from the start.

Shourd was met by her mother and U.S. diplomats at a royal airfield in the capital of Oman, which U.S. officials say played a critical role in organizing the bail payment and assuring it did not violate American economic sanctions on Iran.

Shourd stepped off the private Omani jet and into the arms of her mother in their first embrace since a brief visit in May overseen by Iranian authorities—and her first day of freedom in more than 13 months. Shourd smiled broadly as they strolled arm-in-arm through the heat of the late summer night along the Gulf of Oman.

"I'm grateful and I'm very humbled by this moment," she said before boarding the plane in Tehran for the two-hour flight to Oman.

The whirlwind departure of the 32-year-old Shourd brought little change for two other Americans—her fiance Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal—who remained behind bars while authorities moved toward possible trials on spy charges that could bring up to 10 years in prison if they are convicted.

The three were detained along the Iraq border in July 2009. Their families say they were innocent hikers in the scenic mountains of Iraq's Kurdish region and if they did stray across the border into Iran, they did so unwittingly.

"All of our families are relieved and overjoyed that Sarah has at last been released, but we're also heartbroken that Shane and Josh are still being denied their freedom for no just cause ... They deserve to come home, too," said a statement by the three families.

Iran, however, has shown no hints of clemency for the two 28-year-old men. Indictments on espionage-related charges have been filed and Tehran's chief prosecutor has suggested the cases could soon move into the courts, with Shourd tried in absentia.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he welcomed Shourd's release "and I appreciate the flexibility of Iranian government."

"At the same time, as secretary-general of the United Nations, I would sincerely hope that Iranian government will again very favorably consider releasing the remaining two American hikers so that they could join their families as soon as possible," he said in an interview in New York with AP and AP Television News.

Any other scenario could bring more unwanted attention to the growing rivalries inside Iran's Islamic leadership.

AP

Sarah Shourd, 32, of the U.S., right, embraces her mother Nora Shourd, left, as an unidentified man stands behind, on Sarah Shourd's arrival at the royal airport in Muscat, Oman, Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2010, after leaving Tehran, Iran.

Air controller faulted in Hudson midair collision

WASHINGTON (AP)—Errors by an air traffic controller distracted by a personal phone call set the stage for a midair collision last year over the Hudson River between a tour helicopter and a small plane that claimed nine lives, a federal safety panel said Tuesday.

While the National Transportation Safety Board placed a large share of the blame for the Aug. 8, 2009, accident on the controller, it also faulted Federal Aviation Administration rules in the busy air corridor over the Hudson between New York and New Jersey that rely on pilots to "see and avoid" other aircraft rather than be actively separated by air traffic controllers.

NTSB Chairman Deborah Hersman expressed concern that midair collisions are still occurring more than 50 years after the collision of two airliners over the Grand Canyon prompted reforms that led to the creation of the FAA and the nation's air traffic control system.

Midair collisions involving airliners are rare today thanks largely to onboard cockpit warning systems. But there have been 59 collisions involving either helicopters or small planes, which are not equipped with the same warning systems as airliners, in the U.S. since 2005, board members noted.

Both aircraft involved in last year's accident were equipped with a different kind of technology—traffic monitoring systems—that provide indications of an impeding collision, investigators told the board. But those indications, which can be so frequent that investigators said pilots often tune them out, were ignored or went unobserved.

Hersman said the collision was due to "a merger of missteps" than began with the controller who cleared Steven Altman's Piper Lance for takeoff. Altman, 60, of Ambler, Pa., requested that the controller continue to advise him of potential traffic conflicts after takeoff.

But the controller at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey, engaged in a bantering personal phone call about a dead cat while directing traffic, was distracted and violated several procedures, investigators said. He waited more than two minutes to give Altman a new radio frequency after he handed off the plane to controllers at nearby Newark Liberty International Airport. When the controller did relay the frequency to Altman, he spoke very rapidly, making his words difficult to understand, investigators said.

Big night for tea party: O'Donnell wins Delaware

WASHINGTON (AP)—Virtually unknown a month ago, Christine O'Donnell rode a surge of support from tea party activists to victory in Delaware's Republican Senate primary Tuesday night, dealing yet another setback to the GOP establishment in a campaign season full of them. A second insurgent led narrowly for the GOP nomination in New Hampshire.

O'Donnell defeated nine-term Rep. Mike Castle, a fixture in Delaware politics for a generation and a political moderate. Republican Party officials, who had touted him as their only hope for winning the seat in the fall, made clear as the votes were being counted they would not provide O'Donnell funding in the general election campaign.

She enters the fall campaign as an underdog to Chris Coons, a county executive who was unopposed for the Democratic nomination. The Republican state chairman, Tom Ross, said recently she "could not be elected dogcatcher," and records surfaced during the campaign showing that the IRS had once slapped a lien against her and that her house had been headed for foreclosure. She also claimed falsely to have carried two of the state's counties in a race against Vice President Joe Biden six years ago.

With unemployment high and President Barack Obama's popularity below 50 percent, Republicans said a run of hotly contested primaries this spring and summer reflected voter enthusiasm that will serve the party well in the fall. The GOP needs to win 40 seats to take the House and 10 for control of the Senate.

AP

Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell smiles while addressing supporters after winning the Republican nomination for Senate in Delaware, Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2010, in Dover, Del.

Democrats countered that the presence of tea party-supported Republicans on the ballot on Nov. 2 would prove costly to the GOP. That proposition will be tested in seven weeks' time in Senate races in Nevada, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky—all states where establishment Republican candidates fell in earlier primaries—and now Delaware.

In the other marquee race of the night, for New Hampshire's Republican Senate nomination, lawyer Ovide Lamontagne led former Attorney General Kelly Ayotte, 40 percent to 38 percent, with votes counted from more than a third of the precincts.

Lamontagne, a former chairman of the state Board of Education, campaigned with the support of tea party activists, while Ayotte had a coalition of establishment Republicans, former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and other conservatives.

The winner will face Democratic Rep. Paul Hodes, who is giving up his seat in the House to run for the Senate.

Nearly complete returns from Delaware showed O'Donnell with 53 percent of the vote. "Don't ever underestimate the power of 'we the people,'" she told supporters who cheered her triumph.

But Coons issued a statement moments after Castle's defeat. "We cannot let Joe Biden's seat fall into ultraconservative hands," he said.

Democratic New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch rolled to renomination for a fourth term, and he will face John Stephen, a former state health commissioner who won the GOP line on the ballot easily.

ACROSS THE NATION

Progress made on Colorado blaze as winds return

LOVELAND, Colo. (AP)—Firefighters were trying to gain ground on a wildfire in the northern Colorado foothills Tuesday ahead of strong winds expected to move in, potentially spreading the flames. The fire, the second major blaze to break out on the Front Range in a week, has burned about 710 acres, or about 1.1 square miles, of tinder-dry grass and trees in steep terrain just west of Loveland. Terry Krasko, a spokesman for the team coordinating more than 550 firefighters, said the size was changed from an earlier estimate of nearly 1,000 acres due to better mapping. Crews have dug lines around 35 percent of the blaze, up from an estimated 20 percent earlier Tuesday. "Those hot-shot crews have been pounding a lot of line today," Krasko said.

NAACP backs pardon for 2 serving life for robbery

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—The head of the NAACP urged Mississippi's governor on Tuesday to pardon two black women who are serving life in prison for their role in an $11 armed robbery. Jamie and Gladys Scott lured two men down a road in 1993 in central Mississippi, where they were robbed by three teenagers who struck both men in the head with a shotgun and took their wallets, according to court documents. The Scotts were convicted of robbery with the use of a deadly weapon and have been in prison ever since. "We're looking for the governor to be a humane person in the situation. It is a hideous event in the history of Mississippi," said Ben Jealous, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Police: Naked woman steals Louisiana cab

COVINGTON, La. (AP)—Police in Louisiana say a woman stripped in the back seat of a cab, demanded the driver take her to her home state of Michigan and when he refused, stole his cab. Covington Police Capt. Jack West told The Times-Picayune that the driver picked up 29-year-old Jennifer Gille of St. Clair Shores, Mich., about 1 a.m. Sunday. West says Gille refused to get out when they reached their destination, stripped and demanded the cabbie take her home. West says the driver went to a police station for help and when inside, Gille drove off. Police found the cab parked about a block away and Gille was still naked. Police booked her on charges of unauthorized use of a movable vehicle and obscenity.

Asia

Japan PM wins party vote; bigger challenge to come

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan may have fended off a challenge from a powerful politician in his own party, but now he faces the more daunting task of reviving an economy that has sputtered under five premiers over the past four years.

Kan

Kan, who took office just three months ago, vowed to use his victory Tuesday over Ichiro Ozawa, a party veteran and savvy powerbroker, to push ahead with efforts to cap spending, create jobs and build unity within the often fractious ruling Democratic Party of Japan.

The former finance minister won the vote for party chief by a 721-491 margin, garnering strong support among the rank-and-file membership. The victory means he remains prime minister because of the party's superior numbers in the lower house of parliament.

Experts said that although he has cleared a major hurdle, Kan must now prove himself capable of tackling several serious challenges—including diplomatic friction with China and the United States, an emboldened opposition and a fast-rising yen that is threatening to stall Japanese exports.

He could also be hobbled in the months ahead by deep divisions within the party's leadership: Kan snagged only a narrow majority over Ozawa among the party's national lawmakers, whose support will be critical for pushing legislation through parliament.

Study: To save tigers, protect key breeding areas

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Conservationists must protect tiger populations in a few concentrated breeding grounds in Asia instead of trying to safeguard vast, surrounding landscapes, if they want to save the big cats from extinction, scientists said.

Only about 3,500 tigers are left in the wild worldwide, less than one third of them breeding females, according to one of the authors of the study, John Robinson of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Much has been done to try to save the world's largest cat—threatened by over-hunting, habitat loss and the wildlife trade—but their numbers have continued to spiral downward for nearly two decades.

That's in part because conservation efforts are increasingly diverse and often aimed at improving habitats outside protected areas, according to the study, published in Tuesday's issue of the peer-reviewed PLoS Biology journal.

Instead, efforts should be concentrated on the areas where tigers live—most are clustered in just 6 percent of their available habitat—and especially where they breed.

"The immediate priority must be to ensure that the last remaining breeding populations are protected and continually monitored," it says, adding if that doesn't happen, "all other efforts are bound to fail."

Record level of US airstrikes hit Afghan militants

MIR ALI, Pakistan (AP)—Drone aircraft unleashed a missile attack in a lawless tribal region on the Afghan border Wednesday, keeping up the most intense period of U.S. strikes in Pakistan since they began in 2004, intelligence officials said.

The stepped-up campaign that included Wednesday's strike is focused on a small area of farming villages and mountainous, thickly forested terrain controlled by the Haqqani network, a ruthless American foe in Afghanistan, U.S. officials say. There is some evidence the network is being squeezed as a result, one official said.

In the latest strike, US missiles killed 12 people in a house in Dargah Mandi, 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) west of the main town of Miran Shah in North Waziristan, Pakistani intelligence officials told The Associated Press.

American officials said the airstrikes were designed to degrade the Haqqanis' operations on the Pakistani side of the border, creating a "hammer-and-anvil" effect as U.S. special operations forces carry out raids against their fighters across the frontier in Afghanistan. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing classified operations.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US envoy: No quick progress likely on NKorea talks

TOKYO (AP)—No quick breathroughs are likely in wooing North Korea back to nuclear disarmament talks although the U.S. remains open to a direct meeting, a senior U.S. envoy said Wednesday. North Korea pulled out of the six-nation disarmament talks last year to protest international criticism of its long-range rocket launch. Prospects for restarting the talks were further undermined following the sinking of a South Korean warship in March. "There is no reason to expect there is going to be a flurry of diplomatic activity in the next few weeks," Ambassador Stephen Bosworth, special envoy for North Korea policy, told reporters in Tokyo. "It is going to take some time."

Number of centenarians in aging Japan grows again

TOKYO (AP)—Japan says the number of its citizens who are at least 100 years old rose by 4,050 over the last year to 44,449. A recent Justice Ministry survey revealed hundreds of thousands of centenarians who could not be accounted for were still listed in family registry records. Most were presumed to have died. The survey, however, raised concerns about Japan's ability to care for its elderly. The new count of centenarians released Tuesday comes from the Health Ministry, whose figures are considered to be more reliable than the family registry records. Japan, which has long prided itself on its citizens' long life spans, is one of the world's most rapidly aging countries. Japanese who are 65 and older hit a record 22.7 percent of the population last year.

Musharraf eyes return to Pakistan politics

HONG KONG (AP)—Former Pakistan military ruler Pervez Musharraf says he is gearing up for a return to politics and will launch a new party next month, two years after he stepped down as president after nationwide protests and left the country. Musharraf says he is confident he could regain popularity and would return to Pakistan for the next national elections, scheduled for 2013. He says he will announce the establishment of the All Pakistan Muslim League in London on Oct. 1 and outline his political platform. Musharraf was speaking Wednesday on the sidelines of an investor conference in Hong Kong.

World

French Senate approves ban on full Muslim veils

PARIS (AP)—The French Senate on Tuesday overwhelmingly passed a bill banning the burqa-style Islamic veil on public streets and other places, a measure that affects less than 2,000 women but that has been widely seen as a symbolic defense of French values.

The Senate voted 246 to 1 in favor of the bill in a final step toward making the ban a law—though it now must pass muster with France's constitutional watchdog. The bill was overwhelmingly passed in July in the lower house, the National Assembly.

Many Muslims believe the legislation is one more blow to France's No. 2 religion, and risks raising the level of Islamophobia in a country where mosques, like synagogues, are sporadic targets of hate. However, the law's many proponents say it will preserve the nation's values, including its secular foundations and a notion of fraternity that is contrary to those who hide their faces.

AP
France's Kenza Drider, wearing a niqab, drives a car in Avignon, southern France, Monday, Sept. 13, 2010.

In an attempt to head off any legal challenges over arguments it tramples on religious and other freedoms, the leaders of both parliamentary houses said they had asked a special body to ensure it passes constitutional muster. The Constitutional Council has one month to rule.

The bill is worded to trip safely through legal minefields. For instance, the words "women," "Muslim" and "veil" are not even mentioned in any of its seven articles.

"This law was the object of long and complex debates," the Senate president, Gerard Larcher, and National Assembly head Bernard Accoyer said in a joint statement announcing their move. They said they want to be certain there is "no uncertainty" about its conforming to the constitution.

Julia major hurricane; TS Karl headed to Mexico

CANCUN, Mexico (AP)—A strengthening Tropical Storm Karl neared the Yucatan Peninsula on Wednesday, bearing down on the resort beaches of the Mayan Riviera.

Karl had maximum sustained winds of about 45 mph (75 kph) and was located about 185 miles (295 kph) east of Chetumal, Mexico, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

Mexico's government issued a tropical storm warning for the peninsula from Chetumal northward to Cabo Catoche. Parts of Belize are under a tropical storm watch.

The storm was expected to smack into land near Tulum, a beach town of eco-resorts and cliffside Mayan ruins, and then quickly weaken into a tropical depression before heading back out over the Gulf of Mexico, where it could turn into a hurricane by the end of the week.

Authorities on the Yucatan warned the population of heavy rains but said they saw no need yet for evacuations.

"The police in all communities are just monitoring. There are no instructions to evacuate or activate shelters," said Didier Vasquez, deputy state public safety secretary.

The storm threw doubt over the area's celebration of Mexico's bicentennial anniversary of independence from Spain, although there was no immediate decision to cancel festivities.

WORLD BRIEFS

Police: Eiffel Tower bomb threat was false alarm

PARIS (AP)—The Eiffel Tower and its immediate surroundings were evacuated Tuesday evening after an anonymous caller phoned in a bomb threat, but explosives experts scoured France's most-visited monument and found nothing suspicious, Paris police headquarters said. Parts of a second tourist hub—the Saint-Michel subway station near Notre Dame Cathedral—were briefly evacuated following a similar threat, police said. The station was the target of a terrorist attack in 1995 that killed eight and injured scores of people. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the threats. But they came after the head of France's counterespionage agency was quoted this weekend as saying that the risk of a terrorist attack on French soil has never been higher.

Clinton to try to defuse settlement crisis

JERUSALEM (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will try to defuse a looming crisis over Israeli settlement construction in talks with Palestinian and Israeli leaders. Palestinians are threatening to walk out of just-resumed negotiations if Israel doesn't extend its curb on Jewish settlement construction in the West Bank, due to expire in late September. Clinton will try to bridge the gap in meetings with the two sides in Jerusalem on Wednesday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has suggested some curbs will remain. But he is resisting U.S. pressure to continue the more sweeping slowdown he pushed through his reluctant Cabinet 10 months ago.

Mexican immigration official quits after massacre

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's top immigration official resigned Monday in the wake of a massacre of 72 migrants that exposed how brutally drug cartels have come to control human smuggling routes in the country. Cecilia Romero stepped down as head of the National Institute of Migration, a post she had held since the beginning of President Felipe Calderon's term in December 2006, the Interior Department said in a statement. The statement gave no reason for her resignation, only praising Romero's efforts to modernize the Mexico's immigration system and improve the treatment of migrants. It did not name her replacement.

Focus

New identity theft targets kids' SS numbers

By BILL DRAPER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The latest form of identity theft doesn't depend on stealing your Social Security number. Now thieves are targeting your kid's number long before the little one even has a bank account.

The latest form of identity theft targets your kid's number long before the little one even has a bank account.

Hundreds of online businesses are using computers to find dormant Social Security numbers—usually those assigned to children who don't use them—then selling those numbers under another name to help people establish phony credit and run up huge debts they will never pay off.

Authorities say the scheme could pose a new threat to the nation's credit system. Because the numbers exist in a legal gray area, federal investigators have not figured out a way to prosecute the people involved.

"If people are obtaining enough credit by fraud, we're back to another financial collapse," said Linda Marshall, an assistant U.S. attorney in Kansas City. "We tend to talk about it as the next wave."

The sellers get around the law by not referring to Social Security numbers. Instead, just as someone might pay for an escort service instead of a prostitute, they refer to CPNs—for credit profile, credit protection or credit privacy numbers.

Julia Jensen, an FBI agent in Kansas City, discovered the scheme while investigating a mortgage-fraud case. She has given presentations to lenders across the Kansas City area to show them how easy it is to create a false credit score using these numbers.

"The back door is wide open," she said. "We're trying to get lenders to understand the risks."

It's not clear how widespread the fraud is, mostly because the scheme is difficult to detect and practiced by fly-by-night businesses.

But the deception is emerging as millions of Americans watch their credit scores sink to new lows. Figures from April show that 25.5 percent of consumers—nearly 43.4 million people—now have a credit score of 599 or below, marking them as poor risks for lenders. They will have trouble getting credit cards, auto loans or mortgages under the tighter lending standards banks now use.

The scheme works like this:

Online companies use computers and publicly available information to find random Social Security numbers. The numbers are run through public databases to determine whether anyone is using them to obtain credit. If not, they are offered for sale for a few hundred to several thousand dollars.

Because the numbers often come from young children who have no money of their own, they carry no spending history and offer a chance to open a new, unblemished line of credit. People who buy the numbers can then quickly build their credit rating in a process called "piggybacking," which involves linking to someone else's credit file.

Many of the business selling the numbers promise to raise customers' credit scores to 700 or 800 within six months.

If they default on their payments, and the credit is withdrawn, the same people can simply buy another number and start the process again, causing a steep spiral of debt that could conceivably go on for years before creditors discover the fraud.

Jensen compared the businesses that sell the numbers to drug dealers.

"There's good stuff and bad stuff," she said. "Bad stuff is a dead person's Social Security number. High-quality is buying a number the service has checked to make sure no one else is using it."

Credit bureaus can quickly identify applications that use numbers taken from dead people by consulting the Social Security Administration's death index.

Social Security numbers follow a logical pattern that includes a person's age and where he or she lived when the number was issued. Because the system is somewhat predictable, sellers can make educated guesses and find unused numbers using trial and error.

A "clean" CPN is a number that has been validated as an active Social Security number and is not on file with the credit bureaus. The most likely source of such numbers are children and longtime prison inmates, experts said.

Robert Damosi, an analyst with Javelin Strategy & Research, said the crime can come back to hurt children when they get older and seek credit for the first time, only to discover their Social Security number has been used by someone else.

"Those are the numbers criminals want. They can use them several years without being detected," Damosi said. "There are not enough services that look at protecting the Social Security numbers or credit history of minors."

Since the mortgage meltdown of 2008, banks have tightened lending policies, but many credit decisions are still based solely on credit scores provided by FICO Inc. and the three major credit unions: Experian, TransUnion and Equifax.

Federal investigators say many businesses do not realize that a growing number of those credit scores are based on fraudulent information.

"Lenders don't understand that when they pay money to go through a service, they may be receiving false information," Jensen said. "They think when they order the information from credit bureaus, it must be true."

Without special scrutiny, credit profiles created with the scheme are not immediately distinguishable from other newly created, legitimate files.

Investigators say the businesses clearly know they are selling Social Security numbers, but it's difficult to prove. The sellers use complex disclaimers that disavow illegal activity and warn customers against using their numbers in place of Social Security numbers.

The businesses also instruct customers to provide false information when using the number to apply for credit. Customers are told to use their real name and date of birth, but to avoid listing any addresses or phone numbers they've used in the past. They're also told to avoid any other information that connects the new, clean credit profile with the old, damaged one.

Craig Watts, a spokesman for credit reporting agency FICO Inc., said FICO has tools available for businesses to protect themselves from this type of fraud, but they are not cheap. And many lenders are slow to adopt FICO's new formulas, which are updated every few years.

Some companies that sell the numbers have lavish, high-tech websites. Others run no-frills ads on sites like Craigslist.

Jim Buckmaster, president and CEO of the San Francisco-based Craigslist, recently told the AP in an e-mail that there were "fewer than 200" classifieds on his site that used the word "CPN."

Within an hour of that e-mail exchange, dozens of the ads in cities such as Las Vegas, Los Angeles and New York had been pulled from the site. Many were reposted the next day.

An AP reporter called several of the sites, but got only recordings asking callers to leave a message with contact information.

Experts say the fraud will be difficult to stop because it's so easily concealed and targets such vulnerable people. Other than checking with the credit bureaus to see if there is a credit file associated with your child's Social Security number, spokesmen at FICO, the Social Security Administration and the FTC said there are no specific tools for safeguarding the number.

"This is an invisible crime, with invisible victims who don't have enough support out there to help them," said Linda Foley of the ID Theft Resource Center in San Diego.

A new kind of credit fraud
Hundreds of online businesses are using computers to find dormant Social Security numbers, then selling those numbers - redubbed credit profile numbers- to help people establish phony credit.
1
00x-xx-xxxx
Buyer contacts firm that sells credit profile numbers (CPN). Retailers claim the figures are alternative numbers to apply for credit.
CPNs, typically Social Security numbers not on file with the credit bureaus, are sold. Buyers are told to use a never used before address when applying for new credit lines.
2
The initial application for new credit is typically denied, but it creates a record. CPN firms pay people with good credit to add the CPN holder as an authorized user, adding depth to a thin credit history. The CPN holder uses that artificial history to make purchases and improve credit.
3
A CPN holder can choose to keep all debts paid up and continue using the number undetected, or walk away from the debt and let creditors try to collect. Creditors won't know the difference between the CPN holder and someone who simply can't pay his bills.
AP

Environment

CNMI gearing up for 2010 International Coastal Cleanup

It is 2010 and trash is a bigger problem than ever in the CNMI. Our use and throw-away culture has led to trash clogging our sewers, poisoning marine animals and littering our beautiful beaches. Communities on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, however, seem to recognize the problem and are willing to work toward a solution. Government offices, private organizations, schools, church groups and clubs have volunteered in large numbers for the 2010 International Coastal Cleanup. Hundreds of volunteers will head outside on Sept. 24 and Sept. 25 to collect trash for proper disposal and to gather information regarding the types of marine debris that are littering our coastal areas.

"It's the 25th anniversary of the Coastal Cleanup and it looks like CNMI may have the biggest turnout we have seen in the past five years of our participation," says Bill Pendergrass, Rota coordinator.

Due to the small landmass of our islands and the huge influence that land activities have on the ocean, international standards consider the entirety of the CNMI to be within the "coastal zone." As such, CRM is encouraging groups to begin adopting neighborhoods, roadsides, store fronts and known illegal trash dumping areas for the cleanup effort.

"Trash on land will end up in the water or on the beach with the next rainfall; let's catch it on land anywhere we can," says Joe Kaipat, DEQ Cleanup Brigade coordinator.

The cleanup planning team will be accepting registrations until Sept. 22. To make the event as successful as possible, the Coastal Resources Management office will be open Sept. 22-23 for participating groups to pick up bags and gloves prior to the cleanup event.

For more information or to request a registration form, please contact CRM at 664-8305 or email rachel.zuercher@crm.gov.mp. ***(CRMO)***

Striving for the common goal of conservation

By MADISON SMITH
Coral Reef Initiative Summer Intern

Madison Smith poses with the reef flat survey monitoring team. CRM

It's hard to explain Saipan to people who have never been here. That is because it is impossible for them to even begin to imagine how beautiful Saipan really is. There is so much to love about Saipan: the people, the culture, the beaches, the sunny skies. This island is such a special place. But, issues such as pollution, development, overharvesting, and erosion have begun taking a toll on the beautiful island we call home.

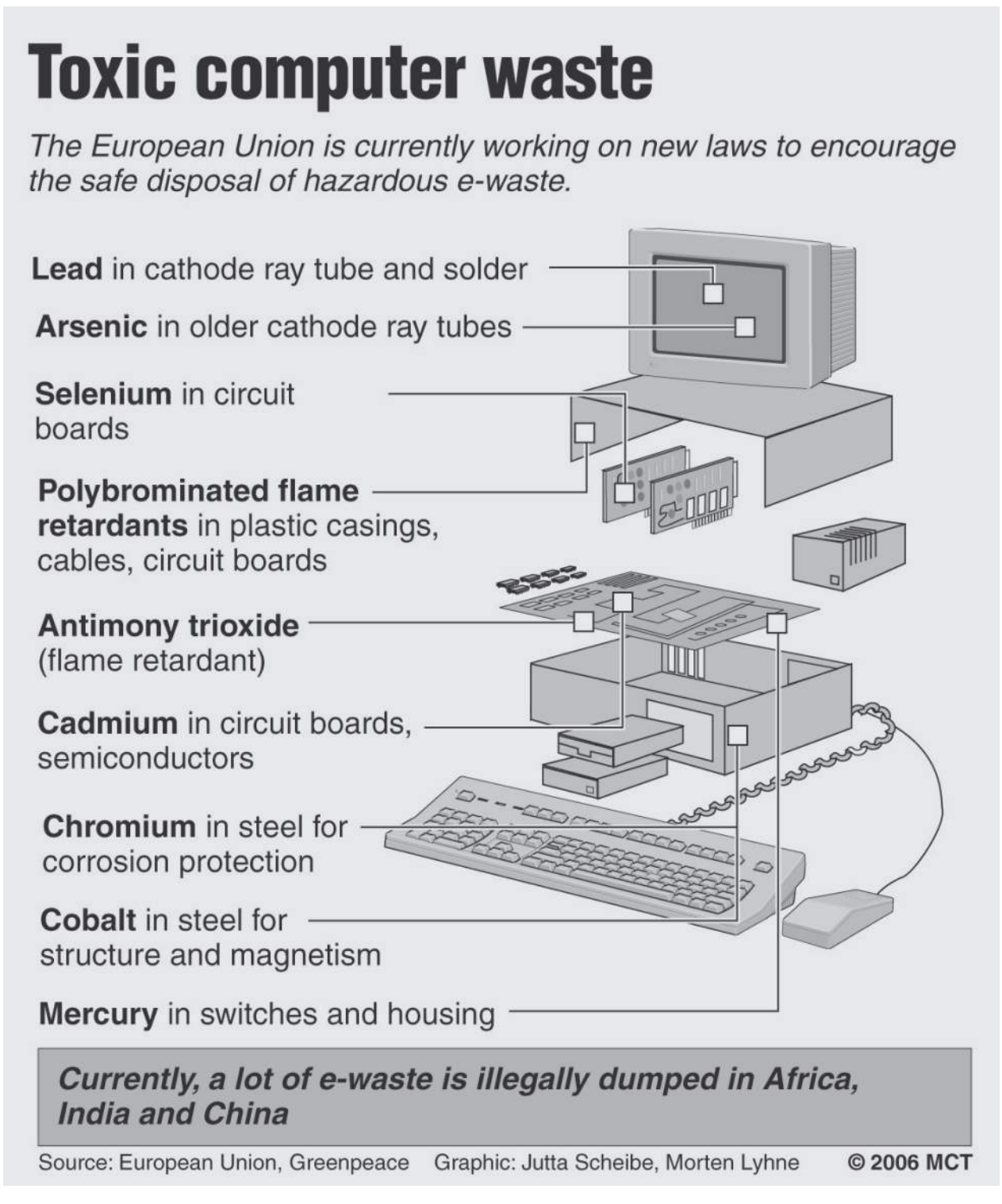
I am currently employed as an Coral Reef Initiative intern working specifically under the direction of Steve McKagan at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) field office. As an intern, I am able to work along-side my instructor and a handful of other hard-working, dedicated people who try to counter the issues that are threatening the island. They are together striving for a common goal: to save what is very important to our island by maintaining its natural beauty and promoting intelligent conservation.

As summer interns, we are all given different tasks and projects to work on throughout our employment. Our assignments vary depending on where we are working. This summer, I have been asked to work on two different projects.

The first project I have been asked to complete involves working on the first stages of drafting a CNMI Local Action Strategy (LAS). Saipan's coral reefs and ocean community are essential to life here on the island. They provide many resources, including food, recreation, commerce, and culture. Reef ecosystems are affected by a wide range of factors including direct human use, indirect effects from land use and natural processes like storms and the increasing risk of effects from climate change. In order to ensure that the CNMI will always have healthy reefs and to ensure that we have a plan which addresses all of the issues, targets and goals that are specific to our region it is important that we have a functional LAS. Its purpose would be to enhance public understanding of our coral reefs and then get the public involved in protecting our reefs through outreach, among other things. It was my task this summer to read 10 different documents, such as the American Samoa LAS, Laolao Conservation Action Plan and Coral Reef Conservation Program Priority Setting document, and then compare them to identify common goals, objectives, and action plans. Upon identifying these, there would be a basis to begin focusing our CNMI LAS. Hopefully with updated LAS, the CNMI will be able to make even better decisions regarding our reef and its resources.

My second project was also aimed at the preservation of the reefs. I was asked to create a coral listing for the CNMI. The basis behind this is the recent petition submitted by the Center for Biological Diversity seeking to list 83 species of corals under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The petition would play a very important role in the quality of the local reefs. Based on records and data collected from local surveys and reports, a total of 32 of the 83 petitioned corals have been linked to the waters surrounding the islands of the CNMI. The 32 species are divided into different categories: 18 coral species found within the CNMI's reefs and confirmed by local marine monitoring teams, five coral species found locally, but not included within the marine monitoring sites because they are found in shallower waters such as the Saipan Lagoon, three coral species not necessarily found locally, but in the neighboring island of Guam, specifically Guam's coral abundant Apra Harbor, and, six coral species allegedly found in the CNMI according to literature, such as Micronesica 35-36: 121-137. 2003, but not confirmed by local reports. My job was to put together an information sheet, complete with a picture, for each of the 32 corals found locally.

My experience as a CRI intern has been educational and fun. It is an experience that will continue to benefit me throughout the rest of my life. It has given me a work ethic, taught me time management, and allowed me to have a first-hand experience in a working environment. It has also given me a greater appreciation for the environment and the hard-working people who strive everyday to save its beauty. I leave for college in the mainland in a short time, but Saipan will always be my home. Many people will be confused when I tell them where I'm from. They won't understand how beautiful Saipan really is. Let us work together to preserve this beauty.

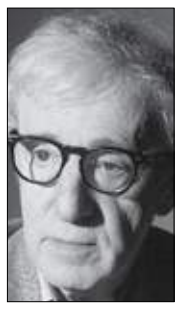

Toxic computer waste
The European Union is currently working on new laws to encourage the safe disposal of hazardous e-waste.
Lead in cathode ray tube and solder
Arsenic in older cathode ray tubes
Selenium in circuit boards
Polybrominated flame retardants in plastic casings, cables, circuit boards
Antimony trioxide (flame retardant)
Cadmium in circuit boards, semiconductors
Chromium in steel for corrosion protection
Cobalt in steel for structure and magnetism
Mercury in switches and housing
Currently, a lot of e-waste is illegally dumped in Africa, India and China
Source: European Union, Greenpeace Graphic: Jutta Scheibe, Morten Lyhne
© 2006 MCT

Life & Style

Woody Allen defends his latest find: Bruni-Sarkozy

TORONTO (AP)—Woody Allen loves shooting in Paris. He doesn't care for the gossip about one of his co-stars, France's first lady, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy.

Allen said he was shocked at gossip column reports that Bruni-Sarkozy was a handful on the set of his romantic comedy "Midnight in Paris" or that he hired another actress to reshoot her scenes and cut her from the film.



Allen

Reports that it took Bruni-Sarkozy 32 takes to shoot a scene were false, Allen said in an interview Sunday at the Toronto International Film Festival, where his comic drama "You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger" played ahead of its theatrical release next week.

"She was no problem at all," said Allen, who shot "Midnight in Paris" over the summer, his first film made in France. "I was delighted with her."

Allen said he did a typical eight or 10 takes with Bruni-Sarkozy, the same as the rest of the cast, which includes Adrien Brody, Kathy Bates, Owen Wilson, Marion Cotillard and Rachel McAdams. He said Bruni-Sarkozy was not replaced and that her scenes remain in the film.

"This is a hundred percent untrue," Allen said. "She's in the picture. Everything she shot is in the picture. I love her. She's great. It's not a big part, but it's a respectable part. Everything was totally made up. Now, I did hire another actress late in the picture for another part, for a totally different role. They're both in the picture."

Bruni-Sarkozy plays a tour guide at the Rodin Museum in "Midnight in Paris," which is expected in theaters next year.

The director also denied rumors that her husband, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, was displeased with his wife when he visited the set.

"He came to the set once. We gave him earphones to hear her. He was delighted with her. He said, 'My wife is a natural actress. She's great.' He had a wonderful time," Allen said.

AT THE IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Second Peace Day Celebrations on Sept. 19

The Immanuel United Methodist Church in Chalan Kanoa again invites the public to join it for the second of all free International Peace Day Celebrations. Fun and educational peace games are again planned for Sunday, Sept. 19, from noon to 2pm.

Last Sunday, young and old especially enjoyed making peace cranes, peace balloons, peace thaumatropes, peace banner, peace wall, peace face painting (with washable allergic-free face paint). Puzzles, memory games, "holding up the world" were some of the activities—all with peace emphasis.

Children said things like: "I really want this peace symbol on my face but the brush tickles." Another had this to say about the World Peace puzzle: "Wow, if one part of the world is missing then that is a big problem. I want the world whole!" Another: "I'd never made a thaumatrope (comes from Greek word meaning "wonder" and "to turn") and it's fun to see my two sides become one picture."

Pastor Millie Carroll said, "In addition to this Sunday's peace games, IUMC invites everyone to again gather at IUMC on the actual International Peace Day on Tuesday, Sept. 21, from 7pm to 7:30pm for a Candlelight Peace Vigil. If people want to add a message to the peace wall or peace banner they can do so after the service. Photos of both will be sent to the United Nations to add to their peace records. This enables Saipan to be a part of this important world-wide event."

"We haven't found records of Saipan previously observing International Peace Day and it's exciting to be part of this important worldwide celebration," said IUMC member Annie Tumamao. She and Ellen Tabago helped children create a simple peace centered snack last Sunday and will on the 19th.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

While working the World Peace Puzzle, Annel Ligaya and Mary Jane Domingo (left to right) are surprised by Peace Man wanting to join in!

The International Day of Peace was established by the United Nations in 1981 and observed around the world since then.

Carroll added, "The candlelight vigil and all events and activities are non-political, non-religious, not against any specific war – only emphasizing peace which we think most of the world so hopes for. The candlelight vigil will include famous short peace reading from various parts of the world and singing."

All Saipan is invited to the free peace games and activities on Sunday, Sept. 19, and the Candlelight Peace Vigil on Sept. 21.

The Immanuel United Methodist Church in Chalan Kanoa is on Chalan Kanoa Drive and Barbara Avenue (east of Town Center and Beach Road, near Mt. Carmel Cathedral). For further information, contact Millie Carroll at 322-6158. ***(PR)***

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†EDWARD JUDE WARAKAI OLAITIMAN

"Endy/Ed"

In his new life he now joins his:

Parents: Dionicio Repeki Olaitiman & Andresina Warakai Olaitiman
Reared Parents: Pedro Teregeyo Rogolifoi & Maria Angailen Rogolifoi
Reared Sister: Balbina Angailen Rogolifoi

His memories will live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Mariana Okaruru Olaitiman

Children: Eli Hiram/Marilou Okaruru (Ella & Elijah), Maria Clarissa (Momang) Olaitiman, Erin Meloni (Meimei) O./Lablu Miah (Lareen, AJ & Aiyisha), Frances Moira O. Olaitiman, Irvin Ramsey Okaruru, Donovan Jude O. Olaitiman

Brothers, Sisters & Spouse
Patrosinia & Manuel Rabauliman
Miguel W. & Darlene Olaitiman
Herman W. & Josephine Olaitiman
Delia W. Olaitiman
Francisco W. & Carmen Olaitiman
Dionicio W. & Angelina Olaitiman
Rosa W. Olaitiman
Benigno & Cathy Olaitiman

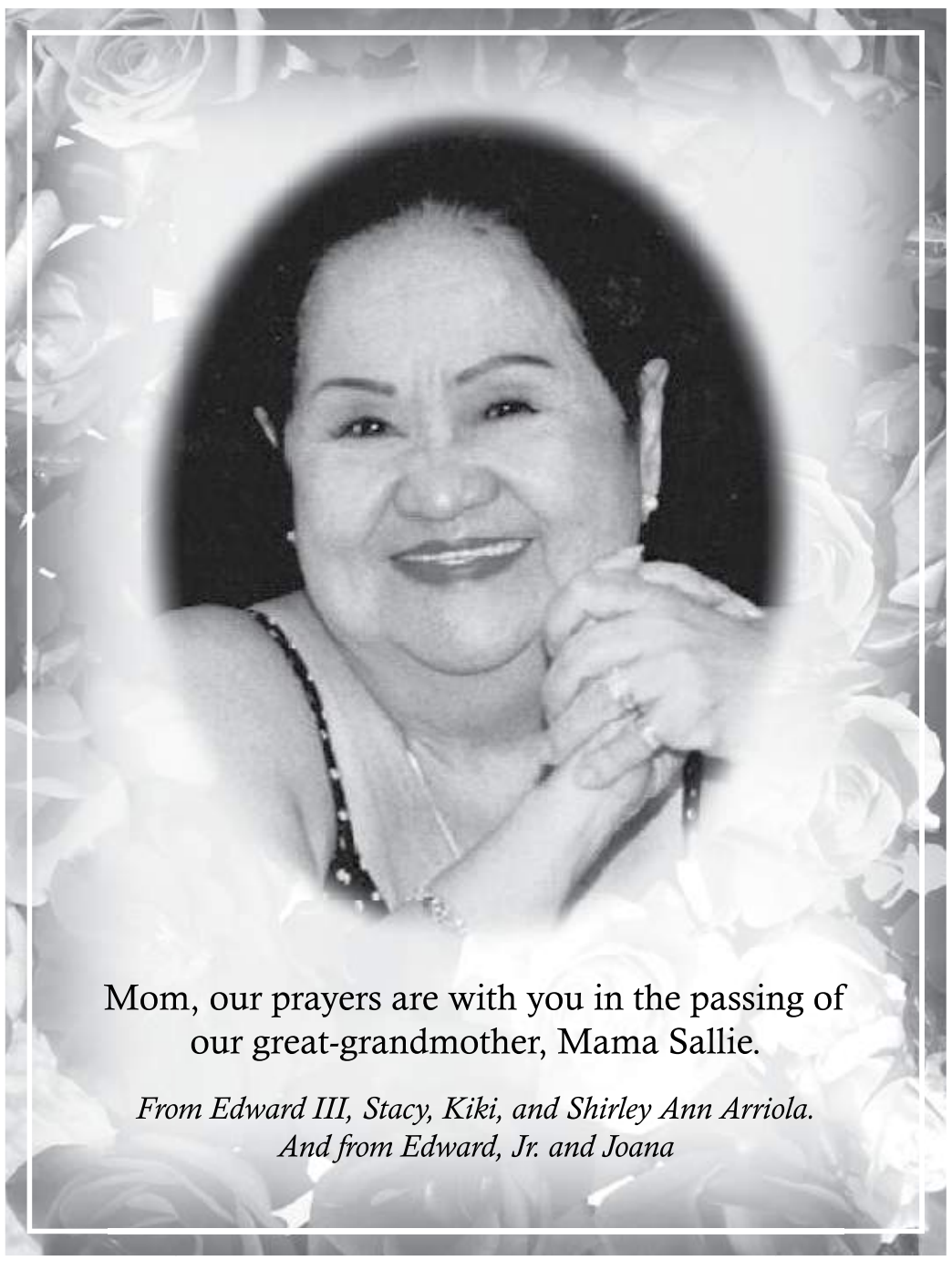
Reared Sisters: Joaquina T. & †Ignacio T. Mendiola
Rosa T. & †Theodore Joab
Malua T. & David K. Peter
Regina Ignacia T. & Guillermo L. Saures

His Remains will be transported from CHC on Thursday at 3:00 PM to the Immakulada Korason de Maria Chapel in Chalan Laulau. Rosary will be prayed at 7:00PM followed by the Responso Services at 7:45PM.

On Friday at 9:30 a.m., his remains will be transported to the Mount Carmel Cathedral for the Eucharistic Celebration at 10:00 a.m. followed by burial services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Ghilissow, Si Yu'us Ma'ase & Thank You!



Mom, our prayers are with you in the passing of our great-grandmother, Mama Sallie.

From Edward III, Stacy, Kiki, and Shirley Ann Arriola.
And from Edward, Jr. and Joana

New Spidey star has prepped for role all his life

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

TORONTO (AP)—Andrew Garfield has been playing Spider-Man since he was tiny. Now he's putting on his childhood superhero's suit for real.

With two major dramatic roles hitting theaters in the coming weeks, Garfield then follows in the title role for the new incarnation of the "Spider-Man" franchise, which begins shooting in December.

The 27-year-old Garfield can barely remember a time when Spidey and his average, awkward alter-ego Peter Parker were not part of his life.

His degree of devotion to the Marvel Comics hero?

"Massive. Since I was 4 years old," Garfield said in an interview at the Toronto International Film Festival, where his drama "Never Let Me Go," featuring Carey Mulligan and Keira Knightley, played ahead of its theatrical release Wednesday.

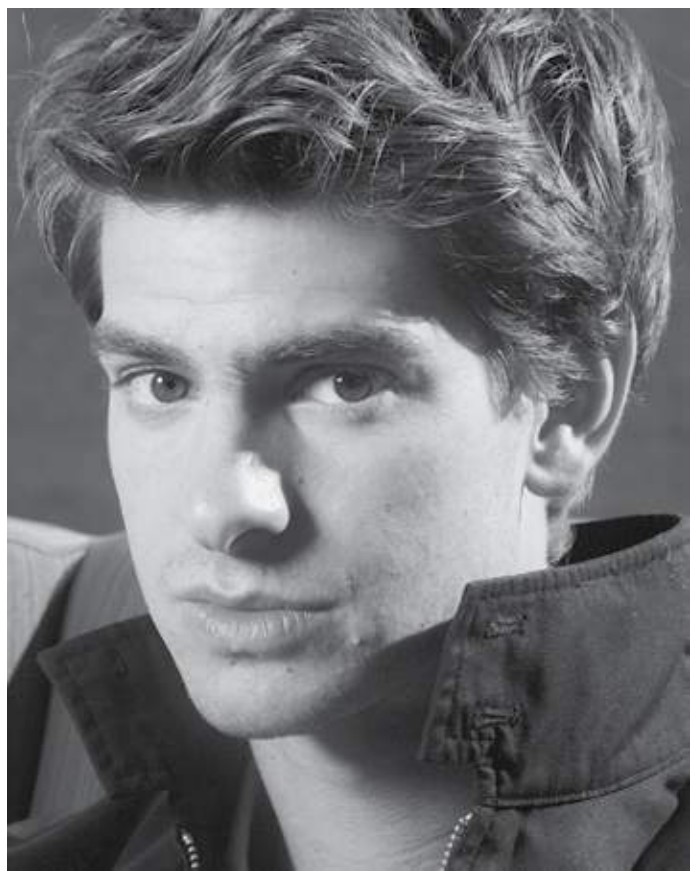
And the appeal of Peter Parker, the youth Garfield will play in the franchise's fresh start after Tobey Maguire and director Sam Raimi opted out of a fourth "Spider-Man" flick?

"His youth, his relatability, his struggle. He was just this skinny boy. He was a skinny boy who felt stronger on the inside than he looked on the outside, and I related to it immediately, and it stayed with me as I grew up.

"Every single generation of the comic, the cartoons and the movies, it all means a great deal to me. It was always something that gave me hope as a skinny little kid whose sense of injustice about the world didn't match his sense of strength about his body. I found it so inspiring and uplifting and reassuring. To be a part of that mythology and that legacy is a true honor."

Born in the United States and raised in Britain, Garfield described himself as a confused child growing up, introspective and dissatisfied at school until he did a student play at the encouragement of a teacher.

Garfield went on to drama school, did theater and television roles, then was cast by Robert Redford in his war-on-terror drama "Lions for Lambs." He won a BAFTA—the British Emmy—for his starring role in the 2007 youth drama "Boy A" and co-starred in Heath Ledger's final film, "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus."



AP

Actor Andrew Garfield poses for a portrait while promoting the film Never Let Me Go at the Toronto International Film Festival on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010.

"'Boy A' was like, perfect. I couldn't find any fault with it," said "Never Let Me Go" director Mark Romanek. "I had seen 'Lions for Lambs,' and he's stunning in that. He sits in there in a room and holds his own with Robert Redford, one on one, in half a dozen scenes."

"Never Let Me Go" casts Garfield, Mulligan and Knightley as friends at a British boarding school in an alternate reality where the cruelest of fates awaits them and their classmates.

While the debate has raged among fans over how good a Spider-Man Garfield will turn out to be, Mulligan said her co-star will swing for the stars.

"Those big superhero films or comic films only ever work when the actors are completely truthful. If they go in with a stylized, comic book version of the performance, it's not going to work. But I know that Andrew will play the truth of what it's like to be that man in that situation," Mulligan said.

"I think it'll be like what Heath Ledger did with the Joker," she added. "Andrew, he has no other way of working other than doing things with complete truth."

Hitting theaters in October is David Fincher's "The Social Network," in which Garfield co-stars as the best friend and colleague of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg).

Garfield is about to begin his training regimen for the "Spider-Man" film, directed by Marc Webb ("(500) Days of Summer").

"We're just talking about where we want to go with it and what kind of body shape it should be. What the skill set should be," Garfield said. "I know I'm going to be doing a lot of flexibility training and a lot of strength training, because I have to swing and stuff. I'm just guessing, but it's all kind of early stages."

The "Spider-Man" casting announcement over the summer made Garfield an instant celebrity, yet he hopes to find ways to avoid giving up his anonymity entirely.

"I'll do everything I can to avoid it, I think, by not associating myself as a brand, just by associating myself as an actor and not trying or pretending to be anything else. I'm just a performer who plays roles. I don't want to be a celebrity. I don't want to be famous. I just want to have a nice, fun life, creating things that I want to create," Garfield said.

Lawyer: Kid Rock defending himself in '07 fight

DECATUR, Georgia (AP)—Kid Rock and his entourage were trying to defend themselves from another customer at a suburban Atlanta Waffle House when a fight broke out in 2007, said a lawyer for the musician who was in court Tuesday.

The entertainer, whose real name is Robert James Ritchie, and five people who were with him that night are being sued over the fight. Harlen Akins claims the group beat him for no reason and is seeking unspecified punitive damages and $6,000 in medical fees, according to his lawyer.

The entertainer and his party behaved "like a pack of wild animals," starting a fight inside the restaurant and pursuing Akins into the parking lot to beat him up before leaving in their tour bus, Akins' lawyer Eric Hertz said in his opening statement in a DeKalb County court.

Akins demonstrated "a pattern of provocation and escalation," while Kid Rock and his party consistently tried to defuse the situation, said William Horton, a lawyer for Kid Rock and five others being sued.

Akins arrived at the restaurant alone shortly after 5 a.m. local time on Oct. 21, 2007. Kid Rock, who had given a concert in Atlanta earlier, arrived in his tour bus around the same time.

Akins and two women in Kid Rock's party, one of whom he had known for years, began talking. Kid Rock was either jealous that Akins was getting the attention or was insulted by what Akins was saying to the women, but either way, a physical attack was unjustified, Hertz said.

Horton countered that Akins got into an argument with the women and with Kid Rock, who tried to calm things down by offering to buy Akins' breakfast. It was Akins who kept trying to provoke an argument, Horton said.

As witness testimony got under way, the jury saw parts of a Waffle House surveillance video of the fight. The video shows the parties fighting, but there is no sound so jurors couldn't hear what was being said.

Kid Rock pleaded guilty in March 2008 to a misdemeanor charge of simple battery in the fight.

The civil trial is expected to wrap up Wednesday or Thursday, Judge Johnny Panos said.

US student sets record for 'Jeopardy!' winnings

NEW YORK (AP)—A University of Delaware graduate student who made a bold bet has become the biggest one-day winner in the history of the television game show "Jeopardy!"

Roger Craig earned $77,000 on Tuesday's telecast. He beat the $75,000 standard set more than six years ago by legendary "Jeopardy!" champ Ken Jennings.

Craig finished the regular part of the game with $47,000 and bet $30,000 on the category "Literary and Movie Title Objects." The clue was: "The inspiration for this title object in a novel and a 1957 movie actually spanned the Mae Khlung River."

The 33-year-old correctly replied, "What is 'The Bridge on the River Kwai'?"

After two days on the show, Craig has earned $114,000. He's 72 games short of Jennings' record of 74 wins in a row.

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Residents Evil: Afterlife
Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30
Mila Jovovich, Ali Larter
Action, Horror • Rated R
Synopsis
Milla Jovovich returns in this fourth entry of the Resident Evil franchise. The zombie actioner is poised to take place in Hong Kong, with Paul W.S. Anderson returning to pen the script and direct.

Machete
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:40
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:40
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05
Danny Trejo, Robert DeNiro
Action • Rated R
Synopsis
Robert Rodriguez makes good on expanding his Grindhouse fake trailer Machete into a feature film with this Overnight Productions picture. Danny Trejo will once again star as the knife-wielding vigilante who nearly dies in an assassination conspiracy, only to return later on and seek vengeance against those who wronged him. Robert De Niro, Lindsay Lohan, Jessica Alba, Steven Seagal, Don Johnson, and Jeff Fahey fill out the supporting cast.

Going The Distance
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25
Drew Barrymore, Justin Long
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Drew Barrymore and Justin Long star as a couple who find their long-distance relationship wearing thin in this romantic comedy from director Nanette Burnstein. Geoff LaTulippe provides the screenplay for the New Line production.

The Last Exorcism
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:50
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon through Thurs 4:00 7:00
Patrick Fabian, Ashley Bell
Horror • Rated PG 13

Vampires Suck
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15
Matt Lanter, Chris Riggi
Comedy • Rated PG 13

The Expendables
Friday 4:10 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:20
Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:20
Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham
War • Rated R

The Other Guys
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:35
Saturday 1:10 4:20 7:10 9:35
Sunday 1:10 4:20 7:10
Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:10
Mark Wahlberg, Will Farrell
Comedy • Rated PG 13

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George Michael gets 8 weeks jail for drug driving

LONDON (AP)—George Michael was sentenced to eight weeks in jail and lost his license for five years for driving under the influence of drugs when he crashed his car into a London photo shop.

A British judge told the wayward star Tuesday his addiction to marijuana put him and the public at risk.

The former Wham! singer pleaded guilty last month to driving under the influence and possession of cannabis following a July 4 collision between his Range Rover and a Snappy Snaps store in north London.

District Judge John Perkins told the singer he had taken a "dangerous and unpredictable mix" of prescription drugs and marijuana.

"It does not appear that you took proper steps to deal with what is clearly an addiction to cannabis," the judge said. "That's a mistake which puts you and, on this occasion, the public at risk."

Perkins sentenced Michael to the prison time and a 1,250 pound ($1,930) fine during a hearing at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court.

The judge said Michael would have to serve four weeks of the sentence in prison and the rest on parole.

Michael arrived at court in a chauffeur-driven car, surrounded by four security guards and greeted by a large crowd of fans and photographers. He left with court guards who led him from the courtroom toward the cells, as one person in the public gallery sobbed.

AP

British singer George Michael arrives for sentencing at Highbury magistrates court in London, Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2010.

According to police, Michael appeared "spaced out" when they found him sitting in the car, whose engine was still running, in the wee hours of July 4. He acknowledged smoking marijuana and taking a prescription sedative, prosecutors said.

It was the latest in a string of automotive and drug-related mishaps for the 47-year-old star, who has often spoken of his fondness for marijuana.

In February 2006, he was found slumped at the wheel of his car at London's busy Hyde Park Corner. That April, he hit three parked cars while trying to maneuver out of a parking space, and admitted being "a terrible driver."

In October 2006, he was found slumped over the wheel of his car as it blocked an intersection. He pleaded guilty to driving while unfit through drugs and was sentenced to community service.

Michael's lawyer, Mukul Chawla, said the singer felt "profound shame and horror" at his actions.

"It is no exaggeration to describe him as a very kind, considerate and loyal man, constantly concerned for the plight of others," Chawla said. "The prospect he could have put anyone else in danger is an appalling prospect to him."

The judge said he was sending Michael to jail "with regret," and had taken into account his guilty plea and the fact that after the crash he had checked into a clinic to seek help for anxiety, depression and insomnia.

But he said Michael's previous conviction made a prison sentence inevitable.

Michael sighed as sentence was passed. His long-term partner Kenny Goss buried his head in his hands.

Michael gained mega-stardom in his early 20s as half of Wham! and went on to a successful solo career. His first solo album, 1987's "Faith," sold 20 million copies.

In 1998, he was arrested for lewd conduct in a public toilet in Los Angeles after being spotted by an undercover police officer. Michael went on to release a single and video, "Outside," that poked fun at that arrest.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Bill Maher gets Hollywood Walk of Fame star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Political satirist Bill Maher has been immortalized in Hollywood. With Larry King and "Family Guy" producer Seth MacFarlane standing nearby, HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher" talk show host unveiled his Walk of Fame star Tuesday outside the W Hotel at the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street. Maher, who once hosted the late-night talk show "Politically Incorrect," said he wanted to thank "George Bush, Sarah Palin and the pope." It was the 2,417th star dedicated on the famous sidewalk.

Placido Domingo is Person of the Year

MIAMI (AP)—Placido Domingo has been named the Latin Grammys Person of the Year. The Latin Recording Academy said Tuesday that the Spanish tenor, chosen for his professional and philanthropic achievements, will be honored in an all-star ceremony Nov. 10 in Las Vegas, the eve of the Latin Grammys. Domingo moved at the age of 8 from Spain to Mexico City, where he studied at the National Conservatory of Music. In 1968, he debuted with The Metropolitan Opera in New York City, where he has inaugurated 21 seasons. As a philanthropist he founded Operalia, a contest for opera singing, and through many benefit concerts he has collected millions of dollars for victims of disasters such as Mexico's 1985 earthquake and Hurricane Katrina. Other recipients of the honor have included Gloria Estefan, Julio Iglesias, Ricky Martin and Carlos Santana.

Tribute concert planned for Lennon's 70th birthday

NEW YORK (AP) — John Lennon would have turned 70 on Oct. 9, but celebrations to honor him will go on after that. An all-star benefit concert in honor of the former Beatle is scheduled in November with a lineup that includes Jackson Browne, Patti Smith and Cyndi Lauper. The concert will be held at the Beacon Theatre in New York City on Nov. 12. Proceeds will go to the Playing for Change Foundation, which promotes peace with music. The concert will be presented by the group Theatre Within. Performers will also include Aimee Mann and Shelby Lynne, among others. Lennon was killed 30 years ago, two months after celebrating his 40th birthday.

Veteran character actor Harold Gould dies at 86

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Veteran character actor Harold Gould, who played Valerie Harper's father on television's "Rhoda" and the con man Kid Twist in the 1973 movie "The Sting," has died. He was 86. Gould's daughter-in-law, Leah Gould, told the Los Angeles Times that he died Saturday of prostate cancer at the Motion Picture and Television Fund retirement community in Woodland Hills. Gould had a prolific career both on the big and small screens. He appeared in such films as "Harper," ''Love and Death," ''Freaky Friday" and "Patch Adams." On television, he played Betty White's boyfriend on "The Golden Girls" and also made guest appearances on "Soap," ''Perry Mason" and most recently "Nip/Tuck." He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lea; his children, Deborah Gould Harris, Joshua Gould and Lowell Gould; and five grandchildren.

GoDaddy.com lands Jillian Michaels as spokeswoman

LOS ANGELES (AP) — GoDaddy.com is adding a second spokeswoman as it closes in on $1 billion in annual sales this year: fitness guru Jillian Michaels. Michaels joins race car driver Danica Patrick as a Go Daddy Girl, a move that CEO Bob Parsons said should attract new customers — even as he predicts that next year will see a repeat of this year's revenue growth of 22 percent. Michaels is a well-known celebrity, famous for her role as a coach on NBC's weight-loss show, "The Biggest Loser." Parsons said he suspects most of his company's customers are overweight, as are most Americans, who he said make up 82 percent of the world's Internet users. "They will recognize Jillian and they'll be charged up by her," said Parsons, 59, who said that he and his wife came upon the idea while watching TV. "My days of being a fat guy are numbered."

Mother-in-law with keys makes herself at home

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband, son and I live next door to my in-laws. My mother-in-law, "Hazel," has a set of keys to our house for emergency purposes. For some time she has been using the key to come and go as she pleases, "borrowing" food, dishes and toiletries when we're not home. When we discover the items missing, she usually confesses.

I am really irritated about it and have frequent fights with my husband over this and other privacy issues. How can I talk to Hazel in a way that won't hurt her feelings? She is very sensitive, and I don't know how to confront her since my husband refuses to do so.

MISSING MY PRIVACY IN SAN JOSE, CALIF.

DEAR MISSING: Try this: Take your mother-in-law to lunch and over a nice, leisurely meal say (SLOWLY AND QUIETLY), "Hazel, honey, I have a problem I need your help with. (Breathe.) When you come into the house and take things without asking, it makes me feel violated. (Pause.) Do you think you could please refrain from doing that anymore? (Smile.) I'd really appreciate it."

And if any more items turn up missing, quietly change the locks.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am being married soon and my father will be providing the alcohol for our reception. We plan to serve beer, wine and champagne for the toast. Because I will be wearing an ivory gown, I am opting to drink only champagne. I have a favorite brand, but because of our modest budget, Dad cannot provide it for everyone to drink.

I was going to buy a couple of bottles to have at our table for my wedding party, but Dad feels it would be in poor taste and thinks our guests may feel slighted in some way. My feeling is that it's our special day and people will understand. Am I wrong for wanting a nicer champagne than we can provide for our guests?

BUBBLY BRIDE IN PISMO BEACH, CALIF.

DEAR BUBBLY: Let me put it this way—if there is a chance that your guests would feel slighted if you get caught, then drink what they're drinking at the reception. Afterward, have a bottle of your preferred brand waiting in an ice bucket by your "wedding bed" so you can enjoy a special toast with your new husband.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a high school freshman with a dilemma. I'm a good student and get A's in all my classes. I'm also an athlete. I play year-round softball and have started playing soccer for the high school team.

My problem is I took a debate class over the summer and really liked it. I want to join the debate team, but I am unsure if it would be piling too much on my plate for my first year.

I'll be carrying one honors class in addition to two above-grade-level classes. Debate practices are held after sports practices two days a week for one to two hours, so they wouldn't directly conflict with anything except homework time.

Do you think I'm overestimating how much I can handle in extracurricular activities this year?

TOO AMBITIOUS? IN OREGON

DEAR TOO AMBITIOUS: The fact that this is causing you concern could be an indicator that it IS too much. That's why before making up your mind you should discuss this with your parents as well as your guidance counselor at school.

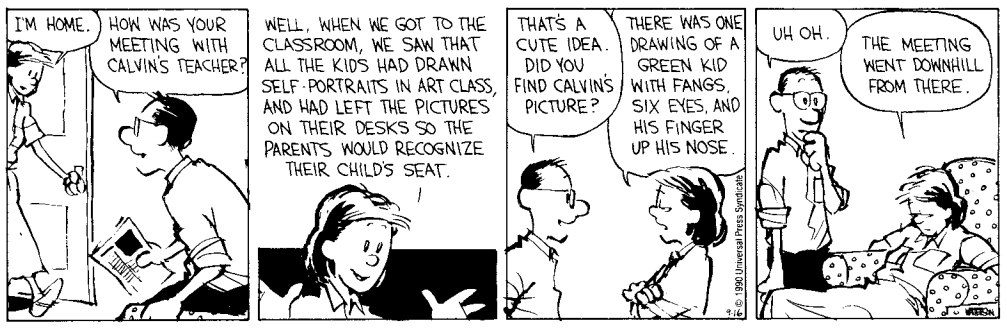
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M HOME. HOW WAS YOUR MEETING WITH CALVIN'S TEACHER?
WELL, WHEN WE GOT TO THE CLASSROOM, WE SAW THAT ALL THE KIDS HAD DRAWN SELF-PORTRAITS IN ART CLASS, AND HAD LEFT THE PICTURES ON THEIR DESKS SO THE PARENTS WOULD RECOGNIZE THEIR CHILD'S SEAT.
THAT'S A CUTE IDEA. DID YOU FIND CALVIN'S PICTURE?
THERE WAS ONE DRAWING OF A GREEN KID WITH FANGS, SIX EYES, AND HIS FINGER UP HIS NOSE.
UH OH.
THE MEETING WENT DOWNHILL FROM THERE.
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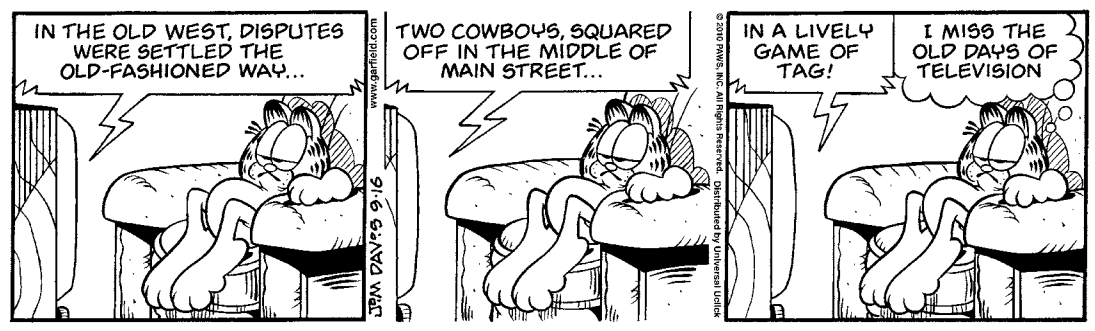
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


IN THE OLD WEST, DISPUTES WERE SETTLED THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY...
TWO COWBOYS, SQUARED OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF MAIN STREET...
IN A LIVELY GAME OF TAG!
I MISS THE OLD DAYS OF TELEVISION
JIM DAVIS 9-16
www.garfield.com
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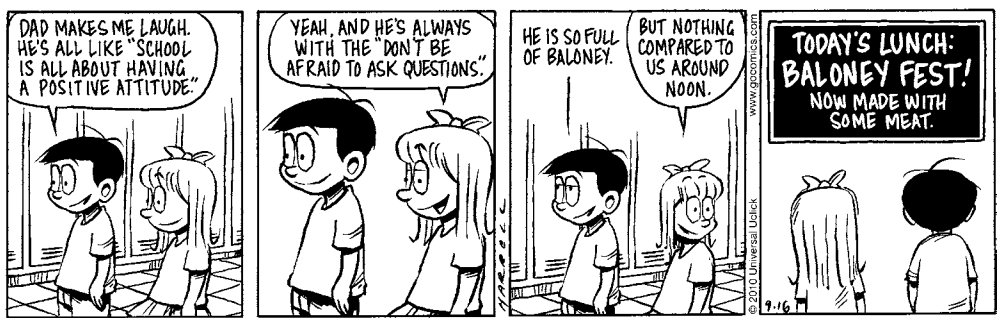
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD MAKES ME LAUGH. HE'S ALL LIKE "SCHOOL IS ALL ABOUT HAVING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE."
YEAH, AND HE'S ALWAYS WITH THE "DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS."
HE IS SO FULL OF BALONEY.
BUT NOTHING COMPARED TO US AROUND NOON.
TODAY'S LUNCH: BALONEY FEST! NOW MADE WITH SOME MEAT.
www.gocomics.com
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9-16

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHEW! I'M BACK FROM MY RUN.
You've been gone for two days!
Really? Has it been that long?
How many bars are on your route?
Forty-two.
www.gocomics.com
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Uclick
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Whack at 9-Across
5 Oil cartel acronym
9 Insect
12 Columbus' home
13 Pocket bread
14 Literary collection
15 Speaks ill of
17 Banned pesticide
18 Ranking
19 Verboten
21 Either mate
22 Reside
24 Warhead weapon
27 Expert
28 Long periods
31 Extinct bird
32 "— the fields we go, ..."
33 Feedbag morsel
34 Spacecraft compartments
36 Erstwhile acorn
37 Nervous
38 Sphere of interest
40 Symbol for tin
41 Expiate
43 Choice piece of gossip
47 Bargain bin abbr.
48 Halitosis
51 Scarlet
52 Arm bone
53 Competent
54 "Undoubtedly"
55 Mast
56 Hinge (on)

DOWN
1 Weeps loudly
2 Abbott's second baseman
3 Verdi opera
4 Monotonous drumbeat
5 Comic strip penguin
6 Pendulum site
7 Ordinal suffix
8 Societal level
9 Bitterness
10 Loosen
11 Feline, to Francisco
16 "— Town"
20 Hearty brew
22 Fear, and then some
23 Toil
24 Mischievous tyke
25 Bill's partner
26 Oaths
27 Lifeguard's place
29 Kvetch
30 Pigpen
35 Trinity member
37 Ingratiate
39 Picture puzzle
40 Round Table address
41 Ethereal
42 Genealogy chart
43 Ski lift type
44 Infant
45 "— have to do"
46 He and she
49 Jungfrau, e.g.
50 "CSI" evidence

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	G	E	D	■	E	O	N	■	A	B	A	B
L	U	N	E	■	S	R	I	■	U	R	G	E
P	R	I	C	E	T	A	G	■	S	O	R	E
S	U	D	O	K	U	■	H	O	T	W	A	R
■	■	■	Y	E	A	■	T	U	R	N	■	■
H	A	S	■	D	R	Y	■	R	A	B	B	I
U	N	I	T	■	Y	A	M	■	L	A	R	D
E	I	G	H	T	■	W	O	K	■	G	A	S
■	■	■	H	E	E	D	■	L	E	A	■	■
B	O	T	R	E	E	■	D	E	N	O	T	E
E	D	G	E	■	M	A	I	N	D	R	A	G
T	O	A	T	■	O	D	E	■	R	A	N	G
A	R	G	O	■	N	O	R	■	E	L	K	S

Yesterday's answer 9-16

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12				■	13				■	14		
15				16					■	17		
18						■	■	19	20			
■	■	■	21		■	22	23				■	■
24	25	26		■	27			■	28		29	30
31			■	■	32			■	■	33		
34			35	■	36			■	37			
■	■	38		39			■	40		■	■	■
41	42				■	■	43			44	45	46
47			■	48	49	50						
51			■	52				■	53			
54			■	55				■	56			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nick Jonas, 18; Alexis Bledel, 29; Amy Poehler, 39; Marc Anthony, 42

Happy Birthday: Your ability to delegate will come into play and aid you as you work toward balance in your life this year. Discuss, formulate and plan effectively and efficiently and you will control the situations you encounter and be the engine behind any advancements made. Your numbers are 6, 14, 18, 28, 32, 36, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your willingness to work behind the scenes taking care of details will pay off. You will excel and impress someone who can help you get ahead at a later date. Initiate a positive mindset and make some overdue changes. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Nothing will stand in your way as long as you do not mix business with pleasure. Keep a friendly distance from your colleagues and you will be able to pursue your dreams, hopes and wishes. Travel, meetings and conventions will all lead to your success. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't initiate change but be willing to accept the inevitable. Compromise will be necessary and, if given without hesitation, will bring about unexpected perks. By allowing others freedom, you will set the stage for the same set of rules in return. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Love is on the rise and getting involved in activities that enhance your current relationship or promote meeting someone (if you are single), should be attended. Don't let someone force you to take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Time spent on professional or educational gains will be advantageous. Taking charge of a group or project that interests you will allow you to show your leadership ability. Be careful not to neglect your personal responsibilities. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Collect old debts and avoid lending, borrowing or getting involved in joint ventures. Trust in your own ability and focus on what you do best. Love is on the rise, so get out with friends, neighbors or relatives and socialize. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Problems will escalate if you are stubborn or you procrastinate. Change is apparent whether you want it or not, so you might as well contribute your thoughts, ideas and plans. Avoid getting involved with someone from your past. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stop talking about your plans and start to put them into action. You have so much to gain if you take the initiative. Don't be afraid of failure. The chance to make a difference is within reach. Use your knowledge, wisdom and experience. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may feel the urge to make changes before you have everything in place. Back up and watch to see what everyone else does first. If you move too quickly, you will end up paying for something you didn't want. There is no room for a mistake. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): There is interest gathering with options and profits to be made. Your clear-cut and precise presentation, along with your belief in your ability, will be all it will take to reach a long-time goal. A celebratory outing should be planned with someone you love. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't believe what's being said or offered. You have to look past the obvious in order to see what is required of you and how you can control the situation so that you aren't left in a vulnerable position. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your creative ability is on the rise and your intuition will not lead you astray. Put a plan for your future in motion. Once you make your intentions clear, you will get a favorable response. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical and protective. You are calculating, efficient, relentless and passionate when it comes to the people you care about.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	9	5		2			6
	8							1
				7	9			
	2			6				4
1				9			7	
			6	2				
5							8	
8			4		7	9	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

5	1	3	4	2	8	6	7	9
8	4	7	6	9	3	2	1	5
2	6	9	5	7	1	4	8	3
4	8	5	2	6	7	3	9	1
3	9	1	8	5	4	7	2	6
6	7	2	1	3	9	5	4	8
9	3	4	7	8	6	1	5	2
1	2	6	9	4	5	8	3	7
7	5	8	3	1	2	9	6	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NEW YORK'S LITTLE ITALY FESTIVAL **Solution: 10 letters**

M	I	Ⓒ	E	M	O	O	R	B	O	W	E	R	Y	T
U	S	T	Ⓐ	R	E	B	M	E	T	P	E	S	R	S
S	S	S	A	Ⓕ	G	R	A	N	D	K	A	E	E	R
I	S	T	A	L	Ⓔ	T	O	S	C	N	T	C	K	U
C	L	T	R	G	I	R	R	E	H	S	S	L	A	H
E	N	O	L	I	T	A	E	E	E	O	A	U	B	N
E	R	M	N	H	P	L	N	H	N	N	P	B	E	O
O	B	U	E	N	B	N	G	I	S	D	Y	S	L	S
S	K	R	T	R	A	E	C	D	X	O	Y	E	L	N
S	N	C	O	L	N	C	S	U	R	U	C	N	A	E
E	E	N	U	O	U	P	A	T	I	A	L	I	A	B
R	X	L	V	P	K	C	I	N	R	S	Y	F	A	R
P	Z	E	P	P	O	L	E	Z	A	E	I	A	N	L
S	S	A	B	A	R	S	Y	O	Z	L	E	N	B	I
E	C	H	I	A	N	T	I	N	B	A	X	T	E	R

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Yesterday's Answer: Offertory

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Saipan Tribune

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Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, **Plaintiff,** **vs.** **LAURA I. MANGLONA and THOMAS M. MANGLONA,** **Defendants.**	**Civil Action No. 08-0214-CV** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 23, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 003 R 30 (formerly known as Block 31, Lot 6), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 003 R 00, the original of which was registered 12 NOV 71 as Document No. 1290 at Land Registry, Saipan, situated on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 651 square meters, more or less, and recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on 12 SEP 96 as Document No. 96-2289.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on September 24, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 10th day of August, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

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Opening Date: Friday, September 10, 2010 **Closing Date: Friday, September 24, 2010**

JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions	*Salary	Contract	Location
10-046	Trades Assistant	1	$11,036.00	Two-year	Water, Tinian
10-047	Accounting Assistant	1	$12,263.00	Two-year	Chief Financial Officer Div., Saipan

Opening Date: Friday, September 10, 2010 **Closing Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2010**

JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions	*Salary	Contract	Location
10-048	Safety Officer	1	$27,921.00 - $36,297.00	Two-year	Admin. Office, Saipan
10-049	Compliance Officer	1	$27,921.00 - $36,297.00	Two-year	Admin. Office, Saipan
10-050	Information Technology (IT) Specialist	2	$19,425.00 - $25,981.00	Two-year	IT, Saipan
10-051	Information Analyst (IT) Analyst	2	$34,176.00 - $44,429.00	Two-year	IT, Saipan
10-052	Accountant	1	$34,176.00 - $41,011.00	Two-year	Accounting, Saipan

*For more information about the position (s) being advertised; requirements, equivalency policy, and salary; please contact or stop by the human resource office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

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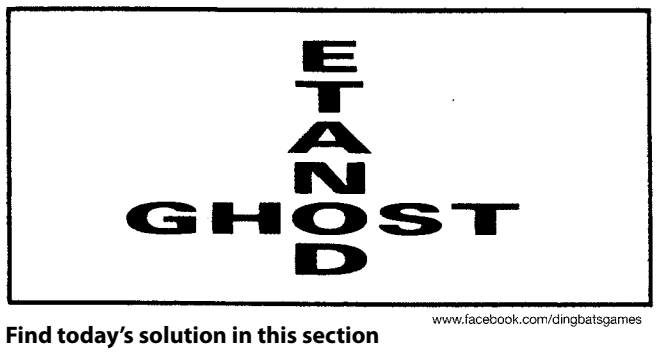

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Find today's solution in this section

Bush forfeits 2005 Heisman Trophy

NEW YORK (AP)—Reggie Bush took the unprecedented step of giving back his Heisman Trophy on Tuesday, saying the scandal over improper benefits while he was a star running back at Southern California should not stain "the dignity of this award."

The New Orleans Saints' star won the Heisman—symbol of the best player in college football—in 2005.

Returning the trophy has no practical effect on Bush since he's already in the pros and a member of a Super Bowl championship team. However, it is the first time in the award's 75-year history that a player has forfeited it.

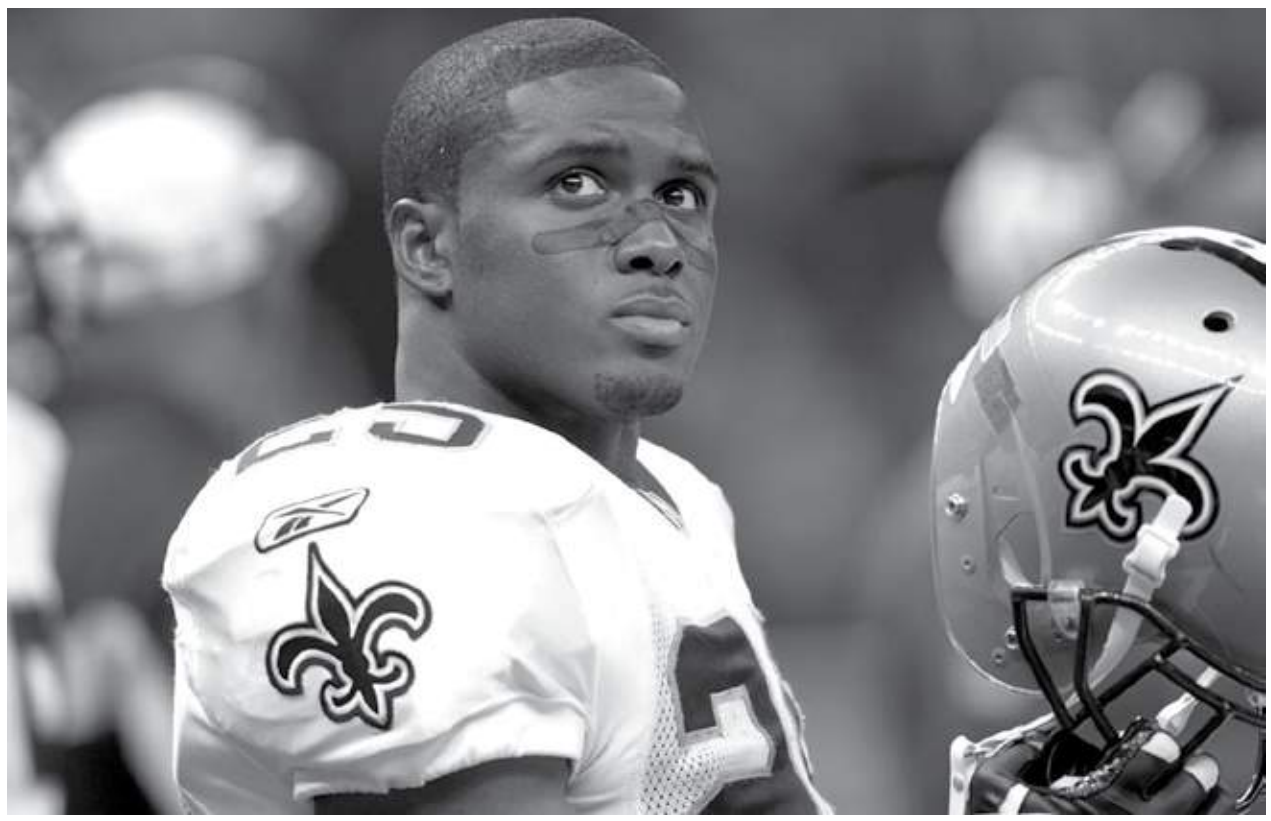
USC was hit with heavy sanctions by the NCAA this summer after it determined Bush and his family had received hundreds of thousands of dollars in gifts from two fledgling California-based marketing agents. The NCAA ruled that Bush was ineligible for the 2005 season, which opened the possibility that the Heisman Trophy Trust would take back the award.

One of the few guidelines given to Heisman Trophy voters is that a player must be in compliance with NCAA rules to be eligible for the award.

"The persistent media speculation regarding allegations dating back to my years at USC has been both painful and distracting," Bush said in a statement released through the Saints. "In no way should the storm around these allegations reflect in any way on the dignity of this award, nor on any other institutions or individuals.

"For the rest of my days, I will continue to strive to demonstrate through my actions and words that I was deserving of the confidence placed in me by the Heisman Trophy Trust."

Shortly after USC was sanctioned, the eight-member trust, based in New York, said it was considering what to do about Bush, who won in a landslide vote over Texas quarterback Vince Young.



AP

In this Aug. 27, 2010, file photo, New Orleans Saints player Reggie Bush watching from the sidelines during the first quarter of their preseason NFL football game at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

The trust met Tuesday; it had no comment. Whether the 2005 Heisman will be vacated or given to Young remains to be seen.

"Reg will continue to be the 2005 Award recipient and I will continue to be honored to have been in the 2005 Heisman campaign with such a talented athlete," Young posted on his Twitter account.

Allegations of improper benefits to Bush and his family were first reported by Yahoo! Sports in September 2006, months after Bush had already been drafted No. 2 overall by the Saints.

The NCAA and Pac-10 began investigating him and the USC football program soon afterward, and Bush immediately denied any wrongdoing.

One of the marketing agents, Lloyd Lake, sued Bush in trying to recoup nearly $300,000 in cash and gifts. Eventually, the case was settled and Bush never had to publicly tell his side of the story.

In handing out its penalties, the NCAA cited USC for a lack of institutional control. Its report cited numerous improper benefits for Bush and former basketball player O.J. Mayo, who spent just one year with the Trojans.

The penalties included the loss of 30 football scholarships over three years and vacating 14 victories in which Bush played from December 2004 through the 2005 season. USC, under coach Pete Carroll, beat Oklahoma in the BCS title game on Jan. 4, 2005, and won 12 games during Bush's Heisman-winning season, which ended with a loss to Texas in the 2006 BCS title game.

After the 2009 season, Carroll left USC to take over as coach of the NFL's Seattle Seahawks.

"It is my hope that this situation serves as a teachable moment to all involved, especially for the young athletes and university and high school administrators of tomorrow," Carroll said in a statement.

In July, USC replaced athletic director Mike Garrett with Pat Haden, and one of the first moves Haden made was returning USC's copy of Bush's Heisman Trophy.

"It was a very noble thing for Reggie to do," Haden said. "In my opinion, he made the right decision. It was a thoughtful decision by Reggie.

"It's never a good thing to give a Heisman back. But at the end of the day, USC did the right thing when we gave our Heisman back and now Reggie did, too."

Bush's decision ends four years of questions, debate and turmoil surrounding allegations that tainted one of the great performances in college football history.

"It doesn't matter if he gives it back. Everyone still knows Reggie Bush was the best player that year. Look at the runs. He was clearly the best player," said Johnny Rodgers, 1972 Heisman winner from Nebraska. "O.J. Simpson got accused of a murder and they didn't take his back. That was a far greater allegation, and they didn't find O.J. guilty on that."

Former Nebraska quarterback Eric Crouch, who won the Heisman in 2001, called it a "sad day."

Eddie George, the 1995 Heisman winner from Ohio State, felt the same way: "I don't think he should've gave his Heisman away. I think it's a shame that it's come to this for Reggie."

USC won 34 straight games and two national titles during Bush's sensational three-year career.

In 2005, he was spectacular, running for 1,740 yards, scoring 18 touchdowns and helping the Trojans reach the national championship game against Texas and Young.

In winning the Heisman, Bush received 784 first-place votes, the third-most in the history of the award and finished 933 points ahead of Young.

But it was Young who came away with the biggest prize.

He scored the winning touchdown with 19 seconds left in Texas' 41-38 victory at the Rose Bowl. Bush's most memorable play from the title game was an ill-advised lateral that resulted in a USC turnover.

Bush jumped to the NFL as a junior after that bowl game and was drafted by the Saints.

As a pro, he's had some brilliant moments and has been a productive player. However, so far, he has fallen short of becoming the star he was projected to be.

"Now that this is behind me I look forward to the future and winning more awards and championships here in New Orleans! Who Dat!" Bush tweeted.

Moss: No regrets about airing concerns on contract

BOSTON (AP)—Randy Moss said Tuesday his comments about his contract concerns "came out wrong," but he doesn't regret making them and wants to retire with the New England Patriots.

Moss had spoken out after Sunday's season opener, then went home worrying about how coach Bill Belichick and team owner Robert Kraft would view his remarks.

"I do care what they think and I just didn't want it to come off in a crazy, crazy manner," he said in an interview with The Associated Press. "It was just how I felt, man. It's just something I just needed to get off my chest."

He learned Belichick's reaction when they met on Monday. He said the coach was supportive.

"I don't want to get into detail about what we talked about, but it was just more watching what I say and watching what I do," Moss said. "I just said, 'Coach, it's unlike me,' and I apologized, in a way, because it's unlike me, but, hopefully, he sees where I'm coming from. "

He said he has children, a mother, a brother and a sister to support.

"They're looking for me for financial stability," Moss said. "Is that fair? No. But that's life and I accepted that and that's where I'm coming from. Hopefully, people will understand where I'm coming from. It's not that I'm asking for $30 (million), $40 million a year. I'm just asking for another contract."

He didn't say whether he had spoken with Kraft.

On Sunday, Moss said there have been no talks regarding a contract for next year.

The Patriots obtained the wide receiver from Oakland during the April 2007 draft for a fourth-round pick that year. His Raiders contract included base salaries of $9.75 million in 2007 and $11.25 million in 2008. He and the Patriots agreed to replace that with a one-year deal with a base salary of $3 million.

He's making $6.4 million in 2010, the last year of a three-year, $27 million contract.

On Sunday, Moss spoke for 16 minutes soon after the 38-24 win over the Cincinnati Bengals, nearly all of it about his contract situation. He said he wasn't mad but was hurt and didn't expect to return next year.

On Tuesday, he said, "I would love to" retire as a Patriot. "The rapport that I have here with this organization, the coaching staff and the fan base, it's a lot of positives out there when dealing with me. I don't really want to try to make it an individual thing, but I guess it has been over the last couple of days."

He also said Sunday that he didn't feel appreciated, then added, "I'm not saying that I'm not appreciated here."

He clarified his remarks on Tuesday.

"I just wanted to know or feel that I'm appreciated. I didn't really try to do anything crazy or say anything crazy, but it just came out wrong," Moss said. "I don't have any regrets for saying that because that's me, man. I have a family. I'm a man. I'm a business man."

He said he didn't second-guess himself for the timing of his comments or sense that it detracted from the victory.

Moss spoke after participating in Boston in a promotion for Capital One bank. He smiled, bantered with spectators, posed for pictures and signed autographs.

Then he reiterated that some people don't want to see him do well, but said he wasn't singling anyone out.

"It's life," Moss said. "That's the thing that gets me about our country and how we go about our day-to-day (activities). If a person, male or female, speaks the truth, we don't like the truth. The truth hurts. But the truth that I let out the other day wasn't like I was pointing fingers or being real nasty about the situation. It was talking about me and my family."

In 2007, he set an NFL record with 23 touchdown receptions and a team mark with 1,493 yards receiving. He also was chosen for his seventh Pro Bowl.

The 13-year veteran left his previous teams, Minnesota and Oakland, on less than amiable terms. With Minnesota, where he spent his first seven seasons, he was criticized by teammates for leaving the field with 2 seconds left in a regular-season loss to Washington. He bumped a traffic control officer with his car in 2002, verbally abused corporate sponsors on a team bus in 2001 and squirted an official with a water bottle in 1999.

In two years with Oakland, his motivation was questioned and he asked to be traded.

With New England, he's been praised by Belichick, quarterback Tom Brady and other teammates.

"For the New England Patriots, Mr. Kraft and Bill Belichick, giving me the opportunity to be part of something special from '07 to right now is something I'll take to my grave," Moss said. "But if there's something that I could ask them for, I would ask them to keep me here."

He has no assurance that they'll do that.

"I don't even know what my fate is, and for me to be 33 years old, it's like I'm held at bay, and that's definitely an uncomfortable thing," he said. "If this is my last year here, I want to leave as good as I came in here in '07. I know that's really hard to duplicate, but I don't want the fans, the organization, coaches or my teammates to have a sour taste in their mouths about Randy Moss.

"If I do leave here, I want everything to be positive—that I was a good guy, I was well coached, well mannered, a good man in the locker room, a good teammate to be around."

Yankees win in 10 to reclaim AL East lead

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Jorge Posada led off the 10th inning with a homer, lifting the New York Yankees over the Tampa Bay Rays 8-7 on Tuesday and back into first place in the American League East.

The Yankees squandered a six-run lead before tying it 7-7 in the sixth. Posada drove a pitch from Dan Wheeler (2-3) over the center field wall, setting off cheers from a large contingent of New York fans among the crowd and ending the Yankees' season-worst run of four straight defeats.

The Rays erased the 6-0 deficit with a seven-run fifth inning, but Posada's shot saw Tampa Bay drop half a game behind its divisional rival with 18 games to play.

New York reliever David Robertson (4-4) pitched the ninth to take the win and Mariano Rivera finished up for his 30th save in 33 opportunities.

Twins 9, White Sox 3

At Chicago, Minnesota strengthened its grip on the AL Central title, taking a seven-game lead over Chicago.

J.J. Hardy hit a go-ahead RBI double in the seventh inning and Denard Span had a bases clearing double in the eighth.

The White Sox are 5-11 against the Twins this season, which accounts for almost all the difference between the two in the standings.

Twins starter Francisco Liriano (14-7) pitched in and out of jams for his eighth straight victory in his past 11 starts.

White Sox starter John Danks (13-11) allowed four runs.

Rangers 11, Tigers 4

At Arlington, Texas, David Murphy had a homer upheld on replay to help Texas beat Detroit and win a sixth straight game.

Murphy led off the fourth against Jeremy Bonderman with a homer that flirted with the foul pole, and was eventually ruled fair.

Tigers manager Jim Leyland argued that the ball was foul, but was overruled.

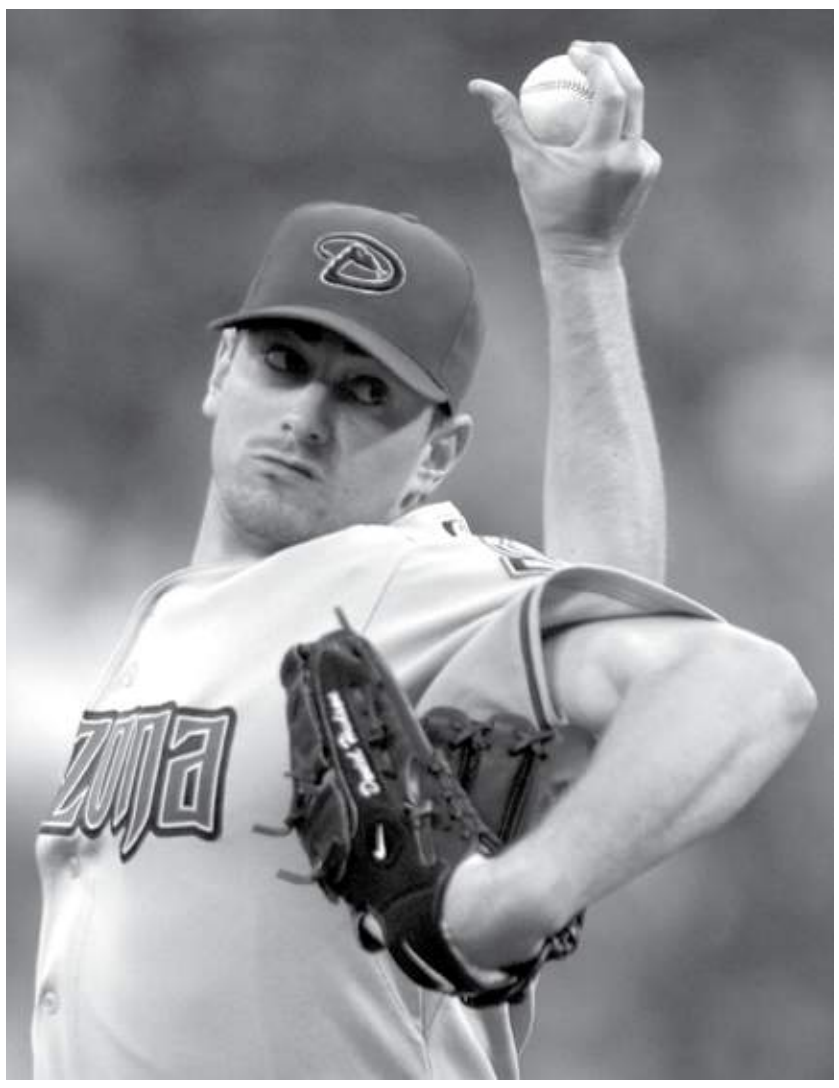
Texas increased its lead in the AL West to nine games over second-place Oakland.

Nelson Cruz and Ian Kinsler added run-scoring singles off Detroit's Robbie Weinhardt (1-2) later in the inning for a 7-4 advantage.

Texas' Dustin Nippert (4-4) pitched 4 1-3 innings for the win.

Red Sox 9, Mariners 6

At Seattle, David Ortiz hit a three-run homer in the eighth to lift Boston over Seattle.



AP

Arizona Diamondbacks starting pitcher Daniel Hudson throws against the Cincinnati Reds in the first inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2010, in Cincinnati.

Seattle's Brandon League (9-7) entered the game in relief with a one-rund lead and quickly retired his first two batters, but two singles, followed by Ortiz's shot made it 7-5 to the visitors.

Boston's Rich Hill (1-0) got the win in his first appearance since July when he was with Baltimore.

Royals 11, Athletics 3

At Kansas City, Zack Greinke picked up his first victory in nearly a month to steer Kansas City past Oakland.

Greinke (9-12), the 2009 AL Cy Young Award winner pitched out of a bases loaded jam in the first by getting Mark Ellis to ground into an inning ending double play.

Wilson Betemit homered and drove in four runs for the Royals, who scored all their runs with two outs and in the first three innings. It was their biggest score in three months.

Oakland's Gio Gonzalez (14-9), who had a 1.75 ERA in winning his previous five starts, faced 16 batters, 10 reached base on seven hits and seven scored.

Orioles 11, Blue Jays 3

At Baltimore, the hosts won a fourth straight series for the first time in six years, beating Toronto.

It was the most lopsided victory of the season for the Orioles, who have won twice to begin the three-game set. Baltimore was 0-12 against Toronto at the outset of the series.

After taking two of three from Tampa Bay, the Yankees and Detroit, Baltimore has four successive series wins for the first time since 2004.

Baltimore rookie pitcher Jake Arrieta (6-6) threw six shutout innings, keeping the Blue Jays to 0-7 with runners in scoring position. It was first ever game without conceding a run.

Nick Markakis and Adam Jones homered for the Orioles.

In his second start since returning from elbow surgery, Toronto's Shawn Hill (0-2) gave up nine hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Indians 4, Angels 3

At Cleveland, Shelley Duncan hit two home runs and tied a career high with four RBIs, leading Cleveland over Los Angeles.

Duncan hit his 10th homer, a two-run shot off Scott Kazmir (8-14) in the sixth inning for a 4-1 lead. He had a game-tying RBI single in the first and put Cleveland ahead 2-1 with a leadoff homer in the fourth. It was his second career multihomer game.

Josh Tomlin (4-3) took the win, allowing three runs over 6 2-3 innings as Cleveland broke the Angels' four-game winning streak.

Chris Perez pitched the ninth. With runners on second and third, he induced a fly ball to record his seventh straight save. He has not allowed a run in his past 13 appearances.

Diamondbacks 3, Reds 1

At Cincinnati, rookie Daniel Hudson shut down the National League's top offense for eight innings, and Tony Abreu had a pair of hits and scored a run in Arizona's minimalist offense, leading the Diamondbacks to a victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

Arizona beat the NL Central leaders for the first time in five games this season.

Hudson (7-2) gave up four hits and fanned eight before leaving with a 3-0 lead. He also had a run-scoring single off left-hander Travis Wood (5-3), who continued his fade. Wood lasted only five innings, giving up nine hits — eight of them singles.

Mets 9, Pirates 1

At New York, knuckleballer R.A. Dickey allowed just three hits into the ninth inning as Carlos Beltran and the Mets feasted on Zach Duke and the Pirates.

Dickey's tricky pitch was no match for the inexperienced Pittsburgh Pirates. He didn't allow an extra-base hit until pinch-hitter Pedro Ciriaco tripled to lead off the ninth. John Bowker's grounder to shortstop ended the shutout bid. The 35-year-old Dickey (11-6) finished the five-hitter for the third complete game of his career.

The Pirates lost their 57th road game and must win three of their final nine away games to avoid matching the 1963 Mets for the worst road record (17-64) in a 162-game season.

Nationals 6, Braves 0

At Atlanta, Livan Hernandez homered allowed just five hits in eight innings as Washington beat Atlanta to end a six-game losing streak.

Hernandez (10-11) walked two, struck out six and hit a batter. Only one runner reached second.

The 35-year-old right-hander varied his pitches from a curve ball in the second inning to Derrek Lee to nothing faster than an 85 mph (137 kph) fastball. He threw 118 pitches, 75 strikes.

Padres 7, Rockies 6

At Denver, Jon Garland threw seven sharp innings and pinch-hitter Matt Stairs hit a two-run homer in the eighth as San Diego hung on to beat Colorado and maintain their slim lead in the NL West.

The Padres came into the game with a half-game lead over the Giants, who played Los Angeles later in the night.

The Rockies, who had their 10-game winning streak halted the night before, tumbled again, dropping them 3 1/2 games behind San Diego. They remain 3 1/2 games behind Atlanta in the NL wild-card race.

Cubs 7, Cardinals 2

At St. Louis, Randy Wells allowed five hits over eight innings and had two hits and two RBIs to help Chicago deny Adam Wainwright's bid for a 19th win in a victory over the slumping St. Louis.

Xavier Nady had three hits and three RBIs and Darwin Barney had three hits and an RBI in a 15-hit attack for the Cubs, who have outscored St. Louis 12-3 while taking the first two games of a three-game series. The Cardinals remained seven games behind NL Central-leading Cincinnati with 19 games to go.

Dodgers 1, Giants 0

At San Francisco, Barry Zito's winless streak reached a career-worst 12 outings as San Francisco lost to Los Angeles.

The Giants, coming off a 7-3 road trip in which they took three of four at San Diego, dropped 1 1/2 games behind first-place San Diego in the NL West. San Diego held off Colorado 7-6 at Coors Field. The Rockies are 3 1/2 games behind San Diego and two behind San Francisco in the division standings. The Giants remained 1 1/2 games behind Atlanta in the NL wild card race.

Phillies 2, Marlins 1

At Miami, Cole Hamels had a season-high 13 strikeouts in 6 2-3 innings as Philadelphia increased its lead in the NL East to two games by beating Florida.

Hamels (11-10) threw a career-high 127 pitches and allowed only one run. The left-hander won his fourth consecutive start and won for the first time in seven career starts in Miami.

Philadelphia increased its cushion in the division when second-place Atlanta lost to Washington 6-0.

Astros 3, Brewers 2

At Houston, rookie Chris Johnson hit a three-run homer in the first inning as Houston beat Milwaukee.

Houston has won three in a row and 11 of its last 15 games.

Astros starter Bud Norris (8-8) allowed one run and three hits in a 7 1-3 innings. He struck out seven and won for the sixth time in seven decisions.

Closer Brandon Lyon gave up a solo homer to Casey McGehee in the ninth inning to make it 3-2 before retiring the next three batters for his 16th save.

Bobcats waive Dampier, get below luxury tax

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Unable to swing a trade, the Charlotte Bobcats waived center Erick Dampier on Tuesday, voiding one of the NBA's most unique contracts and avoiding the dreaded luxury tax.

Dampier was in the last year of a seven-year, $73 million deal, but the $13 million for this season wasn't guaranteed because he failed to meet playing time requirements.

The Michael Jordan-owned Bobcats, desperate to get their payroll under the luxury tax threshold of $70.3 million, traded center Tyson Chandler to Dallas in July in a five-player trade that included Dampier's contract.

At first, Charlotte wasn't content in just waiving Dampier to clear cap room. Starting Monday, they could've packaged Dampier's contract in a multiplayer deal, possibly for a needed point guard. But the Bobcats found no takers in a deal that also would have kept Charlotte below the luxury tax.

Waiving Dampier leaves the Bobcats about $5 million shy of the luxury tax, a dollar-for-dollar tax Jordan has said the team wouldn't exceed.

"We explored several trade possibilities involving Erick, but ultimately we have been unable to find a viable option that we felt made our team better," general manager Rod Higgins said. "Out of respect to Erick, we have decided to release him at this time so he may pursue opportunities with other teams prior to training camp."

Once he clears waivers, the 35-year-old Dampier will be free to sign for any team for any salary. Miami, looking for help in the middle to round out its superstar lineup, could be a possibility.

It leaves the Bobcats with uncertainty at center and point guard. Chandler, who was acquired last year from New Orleans for Emeka Okafor, had an injury-plagued season with Charlotte and the Bobcats used Theo Ratliff as the starting center in the playoffs. Ratliff is gone, leaving Nazr Mohammed the likely starter going into training camp.

The Bobcats also lost starting point guard Raymond Felton to New York in free agency. D.J. Augustin, last season's backup, and newly signed Shaun Livingston will contend for the job unless Charlotte makes anther move.

Talavera, Sablan, McKenzie top September roll-off

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Robert Talavera and Gina Sablan were crowned Budweiser September King and Queen of the Lanes, while Marion McKenzie was crowned Fiji Water's September Prince and the Lanes after the conclusion of Saipan Bowling Association's September roll-off held last Sunday and Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Talavera

Sablan

McKenzie

In a very tight race for the men's division championship, Robert Talavera recorded a four-game series total of 836 pinfalls (209 average) to edge out Raymond Zapanta's 833 (208.25) second place series score by only three pins. Raul Dumapit rounded out the third spot with his series total of 817 (204.25). A total of 25 bowlers competed for the King of the Lanes honor. Talavera won a $90 cash prize, Zapanta was awarded $50, and Dumapit $35.

Gina Sablan's four-game series total of 753 pinfalls (188.25.) topped the 19-player women's division. Ron Cal finished second with a 714 series score and Gloria Omechelang's series total of 690 was good for third place. Sablan won $75, Cal received $40, and Omechelang was awarded a $30 cash prize.

McKenzie, for his part, won first place in the nine-player youth division with an impressive four-game series total of 770 (192.50). M.J. Aldan finished in second with a series score of 669 (167.25), Leanne Yarobwemal placed third with her 632 (158) series total, and Donald Hockett came in fourth place with a series score of 526 (131.5) McKenzies was awarded a $20 cash prize, Aldan $15, Yarobwemal $10, and Hockett $5.

Next month's SBA monthly roll-off will be held the weekend of Oct. 10 and 11. For more information, contact SBA secretary Ross Zapanta at 789-1676.

CNMI JR.

From Page 28

In NPQ, which Saipan hosted, the Saipan Southern High School freshman topped the U14 division, ruling the said age group for three straight years. In Fiji for the POJC, Miller went undefeated in the pool play before finishing third among 14 players in the U14 division. He and teammate Jake Lee then won the doubles event.

Rastguiy is a first-timer in New Zealand and she is excited to meet and play against players in the U12 age group.

"I am thankful to Oceania Tennis Federation officials for allowing me to join the team in New Zealand. It will be my first time, but I will do my best in every game to represent the CNMI well in the various tournaments there," said Rastguiy, who won the U12 title in the NPQ and placed third in POJC.

Rastguiy and Miller will be competing in tournaments in Waikato, Poverty Bay, and Auckland. They will leave Saipan ahead of Minor, as the New Zealand Tour will start second week of December and end on Dec. 22. Minor's series of tournaments in Australia will begin first week of January.

TOUGH

From Page 28

attempt and Jorge De Guzman overshot his mark.

When Ebisuya's turn to end the stalemate came, Basila capitalized on the occasion, driving against two MDX defenders and drawing a foul from Cepeda.

After Basila made the two free shots, MDX had several chances to either send the game in overtime or win it in regulation. MDX did neither, as Ebisuya was quick to give up two fouls without having to bring the former's players to the free throw line.

Then with one second left and Ebisuya in the penalty, MDX made one final attempt to send the game into extra period when Art Trajano inbounded the ball and threw an alley-oop pass to Tabora, who had a good line, but the shot was just a bit short.

Ebisuya gained its second win in four games, tying MDX in third place behind undefeated VisMinda Kids Cove (3-0) and Cabalen-Wings Travel. Ebisuya escaped with a two-point win despite trailing by 12, 15-27, at the end of the first half.

MAFEA was still behind at the break, 44-47, before Rebuyon led the team's comeback in the third, knocking in 13 points. At the start of the third canto, Ebisuya was already on top, 63-61, but MDX regained the lead midway in the fourth before collapsing in the closing seconds of the match.

Also nailing a tough victory in the open division was Northern Marianas Bartenders Association/ Island Apparel, which outlasted Cavite in overtime, 111-101.

Manny Matagolai fired seven points in the extension period, while Marlon Sison hit two triples to give NMBA its second win in five games.

Sison's triple in the early goings of the overtime prevented Cavite from taking over the game, while Matagolai canned a trey that turned a 99-98 lead to a 102-98 cushion, going into the final two minutes of match.

A layup from Marlon Cabrera—his lone basket in the game—made it a 106-98 count and then Matagolai added two more free throws to give NMBA a comfortable lead, 108-98, going into the final minute of the tiff.

Matagolai top-scored for NMBA with 26 points, while Robert Guiang and Sison chipped in 24 and 17, respectively.

First Game

MAFEA/Ebisuya 82 – Rebuyon 36, Opone 18, Basilla 17, Moises 4, Tengco 3, Cultura 2, Vargas 2.

MDX/Monsters 80 – De Guzman 33, Tabora 17, Ebuen 16, Dayrit 4, Trajano 4, Cepeda 4, Tobias 2, Sabino 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-27, 44-47, 63-61, 82-80.

Second Game

NMBA/Island Apparel 111 – Matagolai 26, Guiang 24, Sison 17, Yabut 16, Paraiso 15, Mendiola 5, Tengco 4, Sablan 2, Cabrera 2.

Cavite 101 – Rebuyon 23, Barrios 19, Villacrusis 14, Wesley 12, Opone 11, Artates 6, Llagas 6, Hernandez 4, Mateo 2, Montano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-27, 46-49, 74-65, 90-90, 111-101.

CERT

From Page 28

After two, CERT-No Zone was way ahead, 12-0. Dela Cruz scored a two-run homer in the second and the team nailed three more runs off DEQ's errors.

Dela Cruz was not done yet and posted a grand slam in the third inning where CERT-No Zone tallied eight more runs for a commanding 20-0 lead.

DEQ ended its silence with a four-run bottom of the third, but it was not enough to spark a big rally and the game wrapped up early, as CERT-No Zone shut out its foe anew at the bottom of the fourth inning.

Meanwhile, the first game of the night between Procurement and Supply and CUC Water was forfeited in favor of the former after a no-show from the latter.

In the third game, the Commonwealth Ports Authority was pitted against Commerce, but results of the match were unavailable at press time.

PACIFIC

From Page 28

period. Pacific Grocers' defense hung tough in the second quarter, while on offense Eugene Mangali went on a 10-point explosion to stretch their lead to 16, 48-32, at the half.

With its defense still active, Pacific Grocers contained Cell Pro to eight measly points in the third quarter, while Mangali added six markers, helping his team nearly build a 20-point margin, 62-41, after three quarters.

Roy Hernandez and Mike Palacios tried to rally back Cellular Pro in the fourth quarter, scoring 16 and 11 points, respectively, but Pacific Grocers kept its poise en route to a 12-point victory.

Meanwhile, Saimar Pilot played two games and had a split. The first finished up its rain-cancelled game against the Westerners and Saimar Pilot won, 79-65, before falling to Fererra Builders, 75-95, in the third and final game of the night.

In the first game, White Capalad led Saimar Pilot with eight points in the opening period to help his team build a 12-point lead, 22-10.

Then the Westerners' Gino Libuw scored 18 of his team's 22 points in the second to trim Saimar's lead down to six at the break, 32-38.

In the second half, Saimar Pilot buckled down on defense and held the Westerners to only 10 points in the third quarter. On offense, Erlan Lansang knocked in 10 points in the third quarter to give Saimar Pilot a comfortable lead, 60-42, entering the fourth quarter.

Leo Itaas picked up where Lansang left off in the fourth period, drilling eight points to lift Saimar Pilot to a 14-point win.

In the last game, the Ferrera Builders started slow and trailed Saimar Pilot by three, 15-18, in the opening period, but came back with a huge 33-point second quarter to grab the upper hand at the break, 48-30.

It was cruise control for Ferrera Builders from thereon, as the two teams just traded baskets in the second half.

First Game

Saimar Pilot 79 – L Itaas 16, Lerio 14, Capalad 12, J. Itaas 10, Lansang 10, Lavarias 8, Doronila 6, Archangel 3.

Westerners 65– Libuw 28, Yarofalir 8, Yarobwemal 8, B. Tagabuel 8, Shuimwai 6, Rapuepai 5, Ebilane 2, J. Tagabuel 2, Tawanpiy 2

Scoring by quarters: 22-10, 38-32, 60-52, 79-65.

Second Game

Pacific Grocers 86 – Mangali 23, J. Pagarao 12, L. Pagarao 12, Apelo 10, Javier 9, Ong 7, Moises 6, Lansang 3, Camacho 2, Saplan 2.

Cellular Pro 74 – Hernandez 33, Palacios 15, Ritual 10, Rotap 6, Dulfo 5, Pablo 3, Herrera 2, Manuel 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-12, 48-32, 62-42, 86-74

Third Game

Ferrera Builders 97 – Abuel 22, Abuy 19, Bernardo 12, Galulu 8, Miranda 8, Serrano 8, David 6, Yabut 6, Mortos 4, Abedes 2, Galvez 2

Saimar Pilot 75 – Lerio 28, L. Itaas 13, Nom. Archangel 12, Jugos 6, Trajano 6, Noe. Archangel 3, Lavarias 3, Doronila 2, Capalad 2, Musni 2

Scoring by quarters: 15-18, 48-30, 72-43, 97-75.

PCA/Docomo softball tourney starts Saturday

The Palauan Community Association is calling on interested teams to join the 2010 PCA/Docomo Pacific Softball Tournament.

The tournament will be played this weekend —Sept. 18 and 19—and on Sept. 26 and Oct. 2 at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Entrance fee is $100 and only the first 10 teams to register will be allowed to compete in the double-elimination tournament.

A meeting is set for tonight at 6:30pm at the Northern Marianas Colleges Gymnasium to discuss details of the tournament.

The champion team in the annual tournament will receive $300 and a carved trophy.

Proceeds from the event will go to the funds that will used to build an "abai" (meeting place) for PCA.

For more information about the PCA/Docomo Pacific tournament, contact Rufino Aguon at 234-5498 ext. 2500

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Oliver Secharmidal in action in a softball tournament early this year at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield, which will be the venue for the PCA/Docomo Pacific tournament this weekend.

Belau softball meeting today

The Belau Amateur Softball Association, meanwhile, is reminding managers/coaches/representatives of teams interested in joining the men's open league to attend a meeting today

The meeting is set for 6pm at the pavilion across JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan.

The opening date, league rules and format, schedule, and other matters related to the competition will be discussed at the meeting.

Belau softball is looking at having 14 teams in the league, which is likely to open at the end of this month. Games will be played every Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfied.

For more information, contact Newman Techur at 235-0173. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	88	57	.607	–
Tampa Bay	87	57	.604	1/2
Boston	81	64	.559	7
Toronto	73	72	.503	15
Baltimore	57	88	.393	31

Central Division

Minnesota	86	58	.597	–
Chicago	79	65	.549	7
Detroit	72	73	.497	14 1/2
Cleveland	59	85	.410	27
Kansas City	59	85	.410	27

West Division

Texas	81	63	.563	–
Oakland	72	72	.500	9
Los Angeles	70	74	.486	11
Seattle	55	90	.379	26 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	85	61	.582	–
Atlanta	83	63	.568	2
Florida	73	71	.507	11
New York	72	73	.497	12 1/2
Washington	61	84	.421	23 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	82	63	.566	–
St. Louis	74	69	.517	7
Houston	70	75	.483	12
Milwaukee	66	78	.458	15 1/2
Chicago	64	81	.441	18
Pittsburgh	48	96	.333	33 1/2

West Division

San Diego	82	62	.569	–
San Francisco	81	64	.559	1 1/2
Colorado	79	66	.545	3 1/2
Los Angeles	72	73	.497	10 1/2
Arizona	58	87	.400	24 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Arizona 3, Cincinnati 1
Philadelphia 2, Florida 1
N.Y. Mets 9, Pittsburgh 1
Washington 6, Atlanta 0
Houston 3, Milwaukee 2
Chicago Cubs 7, St. Louis 2
San Diego 7, Colorado 6
L.A. Dodgers 1, San Francisco 0
Cleveland 4, L.A. Angels 3
Baltimore 11, Toronto 3
N.Y. Yankees 8, Tampa Bay 7, 10 innings
Texas 11, Detroit 4
Minnesota 9, Chicago White Sox 3
Kansas City 11, Oakland 3
Boston 9, Seattle 6

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

UFO STANDINGS

Open Division

MDX Chow Queen	5	0
MAFEA-Ali'i	4	1
SIP-Mobil	2	3
Cavite	3	3
SIS-Marianas Wireless	2	3
NMBA-Island Apparel	2	3
Bayani-Soul Jazz	0	5

Masters Division

VisMinda-Kids Cove	3	0
Cabalen-Wings Travel	2	1
MDX-PTC	2	2
MAFEA	2	2
Laguna-Moonlight	0	4

5th POWERade Banzai Memorial Half Marathon and Fun Run

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Above, participants in the 5th POWERade Banzai Memorial Half Marathon and Fun Run leave the starting line.

Far left, half marathon top finisher (women's division) Rebecca Reed is a few seconds away from completing the race.

Left, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel raises his arms after winning the half marathon event for the third straight year.

Clay McCullough-Stearns runs in the bushy trail near the finish line at Banzai Cliff.

Eventual fun run top finisher Heather Kennedy heads to the finish line.

Stan Good nears completion of the fun run, trailing Caesar Danao, who was runner-up in the half marathon.

Saipan International School's Rebecca Iseman, left, and Becca Schroeder finished second and third in the fun run.

Michael Mancao, right, and Ronald Villafria in a close finish in the fun run.

Keum Bae Ji steps closer to the finish line.

A race volunteer points Owen Kabiriel to the finish line of the fun run.

CNMI jr. netters off to NZ, Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth's junior netters were invited again to compete in various tournaments in Australia and New Zealand in December and January.

Getting an invite to join the Pacific Oceania Touring Team in Australia was Thea Minor, while Christian Miller and Negahr Rastguiy were selected to complete a squad heading to New Zealand.

It will be Minor's second straight time to go to the Land Down Under as member of the region's touring team. Last year, the 14-year-old Minor competed in the 2010 Ducats GV Championships in Shepparton, New South Wales; 2010 Post Margaret Court Cup in Albury, Victoria; and 2010 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga.

Her best showing in last year's Australian Tour came from the tournament in Wodonga, as she made it to the semifinals of the girls' U14 singles.

This year, Minor will be participating in the same tournaments and is expected to have better results after competing in older age group divisions of various events here and in Fiji.

Minor ruled the U18 division of the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament, clinching a slot on the North Team that eventually won the overall championship in the 2010 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Like Minor, Miller also earned a second tour of duty with the Pacific Oceania squad. He joined teammates Rafael Jones and Minor in three tournaments in New Zealand in 2008.

"It was a great honor to be given another chance to join the touring team. I hope I will perform better this time and gain more experience from playing against player from New Zealand and Australia," said Miller, who got the invites after an impressive showing in the NPQ

See CNMI JR. on Paghe 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thea Minor, seen here in a training session at the Pacific Islands Club court, will be competing in three tournaments in Australia in January next year.

Pacific Grocers top Cellular Pro

WALTER SUTHERLAND
Jeff Pagarao, in black, drives to the hoop for a layup in Pacific Grocer's 86-74 make-up game win over Cellular Pro in Monday night's QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Pacific Grocers schooled Cellular Pro, 86-74, in one of the make-up games in the 2010 QQ Car Rental Cup last Monday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Pacific Grocers jumped to the lead early, 24-12, thanks in part to its solid defense and Jeff Pagarao's nine-point effort in the opening

See PACIFIC on Page 26

Tough wins for Island Apparel, Ebisuya

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MAFEA/Ebisuya withstood MDX/Monster Energy Drink's fourth-quarter rally to pull off an 82-80 win in the masters division of the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Banjo Basila canned two free throws in the last 15 seconds to give MAFEA/Ebisuya the winning baskets and the team used its fouls wisely in the homestretch to foil MDX's bid for back-to-back wins.

Basila's two crucial charities came after Jun Tabora's split from the foul line forced the game in am 80-all deadlock, with 49 seconds left on the clock.

Ebisuya had a chance to break the tie, but Francis Rebuyon missed a jumper. Then when possession went to MDX, Ebisuya tapped the ball out against the driving Charles Cepeda. MDX kept the leather, but had only one second left from its 24-second shot clock to make an

See TOUGH on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMBA/Island Apparel's Marlon Cabrera pulls up for a jumper against Cavite's William Opone during their game in the UFO caging last Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

CERT-No Zone demolishes DEQ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CERT-No Zone kept its unbeaten record in the 2010 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League after crushing DEQ, 23-4, last Tuesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

CERT-No Zone gained its third win in as many games to take the lead in Pool A of the 20-team league.

Third baseman Joey Dela Cruz led CERT-No Zone's demolition of DEQ, hitting a grand slam at the top of the third inning. Dela Cruz finished 3-for-4 at bat, scored three runs, two of which were homers, and had six RBIs.

Starting second baseman Jerry Ayuyu was perfect at the plate, going 4-for-4. He also notched four runs, one of which was a round-tripper and logged one double and three RBIs. Pitcher Carl Hocog was only 2-for-3 at bat, but recorded four RBIs. He made a three-run homer at the top of the first inning.

Overall, CERT-No Zone went 28-for-38 at the plate for an impressive batting average of .736.

CERT-No Zone broke into the scoreboard early with second batter Ayuyu making a double and driving leadoff batter Jun Kaipat home at the top of

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CERT-No Zone's Carl Hocog at bat during their game against DEQ in the government/business softball league last Tuesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

the first inning. A few minutes later, Hocog blasted a three-run, over-the-fence homer and CERT-No Zone ended the inning with seven runs.

On defense, Hocog allowed only two hits and walked three, shutting out DEQ in the first two innings.

See CERT on Page 26